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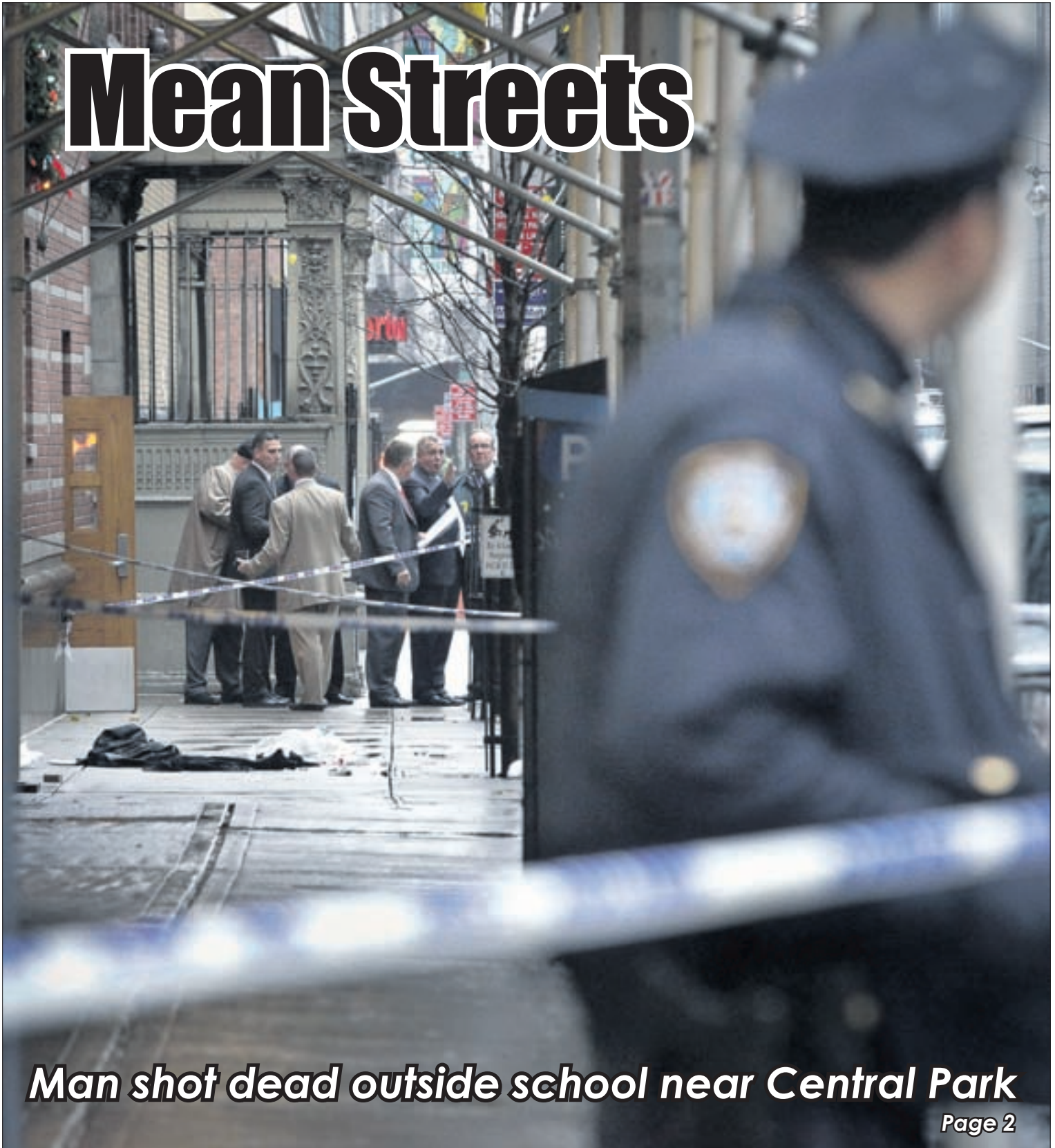
MARK LANDLER
 © 2012 New York Times
 REDFORD, Mich. – Using a German-owned truck factory as a grease-stained backdrop, President Barack Obama on Monday pressed his case for higher tax rates for the richest Americans, declaring that his economic program would cut the deficit without crimping the job market.
 “Our economic success



President Barack Obama tours the Daimler Detroit Diesel plant in Redford, Mich., Dec. 10, 2012.
 (Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

has never come from the top down,” Obama said to a few hundred cheering autoworkers. “It comes from the middle out; it comes from the bottom up.”
 A day after the president and the House speaker, John A. Boehner, held face-to-face budget talks at the White House, Obama took his case again to the U.S. public – a strategy he has used repeatedly to go around reluctant party leaders in Congress.
 This time, he chose a sprawling 75-year-old truck factory, Detroit Diesel.

Continued on Page 3



Man shot dead outside school near Central Park

Page 2

Police investigate the scene where a man was fatally shot in the back of the head in New York on Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. Authorities said the man was shot near Columbus Circle, lying mortally wounded as the suspect escaped with a getaway driver.
 (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

North Korea extending launch period to Dec. 29

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea is pressing ahead with preparation for a long-range rocket launch after extending its liftoff window by another week

until Dec. 29 because of technical problems. An unidentified spokesman for the North's Korean Committee of Space Technology told state media Monday that scientists found a “technical de-

ficiency in the first-stage control engine module of the rocket.” The statement didn't elaborate but said technicians were moving ahead with final preparations for the liftoff from a west coast launch site. The

specifics of the rocket's technical problems aren't clear, but state media put out an overnight dispatch detailing the unusually cold weather and heavy snow hitting the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Quake rattles Sochi region of Russia

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia (AP) — An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.8 hit Russia on Monday along the Black Sea coast to the north of Sochi, the city preparing to hold the 2014 Winter Olympics. Vladimir Smirnov of the emergency services said no injuries or damage have been reported. He said the quake hit in the evening about 34 kilometers northwest of the port city of Novorossiisk. Earthquakes of this size have the potential to cause damage. Tremors were felt in other coastal towns, including Sochi. The earthquake also was felt in Anapa, the coastal city that is the starting point for a new gas pipeline called South Stream that will connect Russia's Black Sea coast with the Balkans, Austria and Italy. □

Mexico's Nieto wants school reforms

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto is proposing sweeping reforms to a public education system widely seen as ineffective, taking on the rule of a union leader often called the country's most powerful woman. Pena Nieto seeks to create a merit-based system of hiring and promoting teachers in a country where the positions are often bought and inherited. His plan announced Monday would move much of the control to the federal government. It is his first major proposal since taking office Dec. 1 and is widely seen as a blow to union president Elba Esther Gordillo, who has played the role of kingmaker with many Mexican politicians. □

Philippines welcomes a stronger Japan

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines says it would welcome a more active Japanese military and changes to Japan's pacifist constitution so it can provide a counterbalance to China in the region. China has ongoing territorial disputes with the Philippines and Vietnam in the South China Sea, and with Japan over islands in the East China Sea. Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Raul Hernandez quoted Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario as saying Monday that Manila would "welcome a stronger Japan" to "serve as a balancing factor in the region." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Le said that with the cold war over, there's no need for one country to counterbalance another. □

Bosnian Serb police ban rights march

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Activists say Bosnian Serb police have banned a march by war survivors to mark International Human Rights Day in Prijedor, where thousands of non-Serbs were killed or disappeared during the Serb occupation that began 20 years ago. Seven protesters marched in Prijedor on Monday with duct tape over their mouths. They carried a banner that read: "Where human rights are violated, civil disobedience is a must." Activists used Facebook to post the police letter, which did not explain why the march was forbidden. The International Commission on Missing Persons has reported that at least 1,500 people were killed in Prijedor and 1,800 were missing. □

Architect gets 6 months for smuggling

US/MEXICO BORDER (AP) — A highly acclaimed architect has been sentenced to six months in prison for hiding nearly 13 pounds (6 kilograms) of cocaine in his minivan's battery when he tried entering the U.S. Eugenio Velazquez em-

braced his wife, daughters and supporters after a federal judge in San Diego ordered him Monday to report to prison Jan. 11 to begin a sentence of six months in federal custody, followed by six months of home confinement. □

Man shot dead near Central Park

DEEPTI HAJELA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man was shot in the back of the head on Monday in a densely populated area of midtown Manhattan popular with tourist and lay mortally wounded in a pool of blood as his killer escaped with a getaway driver, police said.

The shooting occurred Monday afternoon outside a boarding school on a fairly quiet street between busy avenues teeming

with tourists and Christmas shoppers, just blocks away from Central Park and Columbus Circle.

The 31-year-old victim, who apparently lived outside the city, was walking west on 58th Street around 2 p.m., New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said.

The gunman, wearing a dark coat with a dark hood and khaki pants, came up behind him and fired what appeared to be a silver semi-automatic pistol, strik-

ing him once, Browne said. It's believed that the shooter and the getaway driver may have been in the neighborhood for some time. They escaped in a light grey or silver Lincoln sedan. There was no known connection to the school, Browne said.

None of the 38 boys studying at the school witnessed the shooting because they were at a church rehearsing, said Allie Roma, a receptionist at the Saint Thomas Choir School. □



Police secure a sidewalk during the investigation of the scene where a man was fatally shot in the back of the head on Monday Dec. 10, 2012, in New York. Authorities said the man was shot outside a school near Columbus Circle in Manhattan, lying mortally wounded in a pool of blood as the suspect escaped with a getaway driver.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Taliban to attend Paris meeting

AMIR SHAH

PATRICK QUINN

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— The Taliban will attend a meeting in France to talk about Afghanistan's future but will not discuss peace and reconciliation, the militant group's spokesman said Monday.

The meeting, organized by a French think tank on the outskirts of Paris, is not expected to produce results, but it will produce a rare face-to-face gathering of Afghanistan's major players. Only one such meeting, far less inclusive, has been held this year with

Taliban participation. It was organized by a Japanese university in Kyoto six months ago.

Zabiullah Mujahid said two of the Taliban's representatives will attend next week's meeting to outline their policies.

Representatives from Afghanistan's High Peace Council, political parties opposed to the Taliban, and the militant Islamist group Hezb-e-Islami also are expected to attend.

French Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Vincent Floreani said the intra-Afghan conference would take place this month un-

der the auspices of the Foundation for Strategic Research.

It will be closed to the media and will involve "all components of Afghan society," he said.

He declined to specify the date or indicate the location, citing security concerns.

Peace talks with the Taliban remained stalled, but there are signs of increasing efforts to get them back on track. U.S.-backed talks broke down last March in a dispute over the release of five Taliban detainees held in U.S. custody in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. □

With blue-collar backdrop, Obama presses for fiscal plan

Continued from front

In a speech replete with the rhetoric and cadences of his late-inning campaign swings, Obama ratcheted up the pressure on Republicans, who are still resisting his call for higher tax rates for incomes above \$250,000 a year. The effort comes two weeks before a deadline that could set off across-the-board tax increases and automatic spending cuts.

Under his plan, Obama said, taxes would not increase for 98 percent of Americans, and even those earning above \$250,000 a year would not be taxed at a higher rate on their first \$250,000 of income. But fairness, he said, demanded that those earning much more pay a greater share. "I'm not going to have situation where the wealthiest among us, including me, get to keep all our tax

breaks," he said.

Obama also thrust himself into the debate in Michigan over a right-to-work law, which forbids employees from being required to sign up for unions. The state's Republican-controlled House and Senate have passed versions of such a law, and the governor, Rick Snyder, a Republican, has said he would sign it if it comes to his desk.

"What we shouldn't do, I've just got to say this, what we shouldn't do is take away your rights to bargain," Obama said to a huge cheer from the audience, most of whom belonged to the United Auto Workers.

Obama said these laws were more about politics than economics, and he argued that they would do nothing to attract high-quality manufacturing jobs to Michigan, as their advocates suggest. "They believe you have a right to



President Barack Obama takes the stage at Daimler Detroit Diesel plant in Redford, Mich., Dec. 10, 2012. Obama traveled to Michigan Monday to tour the plant and talk about the economy and the looming so-called fiscal cliff.

(Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

work for less money," he scoffed.

In Obama's first visit to Michigan since the election, he still seemed to be in election mode, presenting the fiscal debate as a choice about what kind of

future America will have. But he skipped partisan attacks on the Republicans and devoted much of his remarks to extolling Detroit Diesel as an example of how the country can rebound.

Daimler, which owns Detroit Diesel, will invest in new equipment to make truck engines, axles, and transmissions on a single site at the factory in this suburb of Detroit. That will improve the integration of its components, said Obama, who took a tour of the plant floor and watched a demonstration of pistons being inserted into an engine.

Detroit Diesel, a manufacturer of heavy-duty trucks, traces its roots to 1938. It was sold to Daimler in 2000, after Daimler had acquired Chrysler. The company remained part of Daimler after it sold off Chrysler, amid heavy losses, to a hedge fund in 2007. The carmaker was rescued in a bailout by the Obama administration. Jay Carney, the White House spokesman, said Daimler's up-and-down history in Detroit was less of an issue for Obama than what it was doing now. □



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Pot officially legalized in Colorado with proclamation

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Marijuana for recreational use became legal in Colorado Monday, when the governor took the procedural step of declaring the voter-approved change part of the state constitution.

Colorado became the second state after Washington to allow pot use without a doctor's recommendation. Both states prohibit public use of the drug, and commercial sales in Colorado and Washington won't be permitted until after regulations are written next year. Hickenlooper, a Democrat, opposed the measure but had no veto power over the voter-approved amendment to the state constitution. He tweeted his declaration Monday and sent an executive order to reporters by email after the fact. That prevented

a countdown to legalization as seen in Washington, where the law's supporters gathered to smoke in public to celebrate.

The law gave Hickenlooper until Jan. 5 to declare marijuana legal. He told reporters Monday he saw no rea-

son to wait and didn't see any point in letting marijuana become legal without his proclamation.

"If the voters go out and pass something and they put it in the state constitution, by a significant margin, far be it from myself or

any governor to overrule. I mean, this is why it's a democracy, right?" Hickenlooper said. Adults over 21 in Colorado may now possess up to an ounce of marijuana, or six plants. Public use and sale of the drug remain illegal.

Colorado and Washington officials both have asked the U.S. Department of Justice for guidance on the laws that conflict with federal drug law. So far the federal government has offered little guidance beyond stating that marijuana remains illegal and that the controlled Substances Act will be enforced. Of special concern for state regulators is how to protect state employees who violate federal drug law by complying with state marijuana laws.

Hickenlooper also announced a state task force Monday to help craft the marijuana regulations. The

24-member task force includes law enforcement, agriculture officials and marijuana advocates.

The governor admonished the task force not to ponder whether marijuana should be legal. "I don't think we benefit anyone by going back and turning over the same soil. Our job is to move forward," he said.

Hickenlooper told the task force to "work to reconcile Colorado and federal laws such that the new laws and regulations do not subject Colorado state and local governments and state and local government employees to prosecution by the federal government."

Colorado's marijuana measure, Amendment 64, was approved with 55 percent of the vote last month. One of the authors of Colorado's pot amendment, Mason Tvert, called the declaration "truly historic." □



Two women smoke marijuana together near the small Rocky Mountain town of Nederland, Colo. Marijuana for recreational use became legal in Colorado Monday, when the governor took the procedural step of declaring the voter-approved change part of the state constitution.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Shooting suspect Holmes' lawyers to subpoena reporter

DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

CENTENNIAL, Colorado (AP) — Attorneys for the suspect in a Colorado movie theater shooting that killed 12 people plan to subpoena a Fox News journalist who was the first to report that James Holmes sent his psychiatrist a notebook full of violent descriptions.

The attorneys made the statement toward the end of a court hearing Monday after nine different law enforcement officials denied being the ones to tell reporter Jana Winter about the notebook. The defense argues the disclosure was a violation of a gag order in the case

and is seeking sanctions against the leaker.

After authorities seized a package from Holmes in the mailroom of the University of Colorado, Denver four days after the shooting, Winter reported that it contained a notebook with violent descriptions of a possible attack. Defense attorneys quickly complained that the leak must have come from law enforcement and demanded sanctions, though prosecutors said the report was inaccurate and there was no indication it came from anyone with knowledge of the case.

The defense's plans to subpoena Winter could set up a courtroom

clash over reporters' ability to protect their sources from disclosure. Winter did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Holmes sent a package containing the notebook and burnt paper money to his psychiatrist shortly before allegedly opening fire on a midnight screening of the new Batman movie in July. Authorities haven't described the notebook's contents.

In court on Monday, they said they became aware of it only after Holmes' attorneys contacted his psychiatrist, Dr. Lynne Fenton, and asked for it back. The package was then found, undelivered, in the uni-

versity mail room.

Aurora Police Sgt. Matt Fyles testified Monday that his department and university police disagreed over which department had jurisdiction over the notebook.

Aurora police obtained a warrant hours after the notebook was found and took custody, but Fyles did not describe how the disagreement was settled.

The notebook was later turned over to the court.

Holmes is charged with killing 12 people and wounding 70. A preliminary hearing to determine if there's enough evidence for Holmes to stand trial is scheduled for Jan. 7. □

Book Signing Wed Dec 12

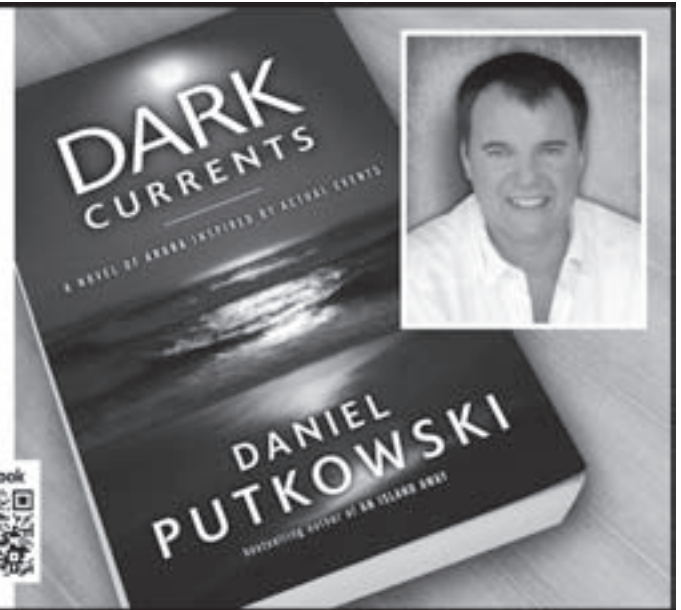
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Former US police officer scheduled for execution

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — A decorated Florida police officer who killed nine people during a 1986 crime spree after he was fired for lying is scheduled to be executed Tuesday night. U.S. Judge Timothy Corrigan denied Manuel Pardo's request for a stay on Monday.

Pardo's attorneys continue to try to block his execution, arguing in federal appeals that the 56-year-old is mentally ill, something his trial attorney believed more than two decades ago. "I think that anyone who would get up and ask a jury sentence him to death is insane," lawyer Ronald Guralnick has said. Most of Pardo's victims were involved with drugs, officials said, and Pardo contended that he was doing the world a favor by killing them.

"I am a soldier, I accomplished my mission and I humbly ask you to give me the glory of ending my life and not send me to spend the rest of my days in state prison," the then-31-year-old Pardo told jurors at his 1988 trial. Regino Musa, the

brother of one of Pardo's victims, said it's difficult to grasp that the execution will finally happen. He and his elderly mother plan to attend. "It's about time. It's been so long, you just want to get it over with," said Musa, whose sister, Sara

Highway Patrol, graduating at the top of his class at the academy. But he was fired from that agency in 1979 for falsifying traffic tickets. He was soon hired by the police department in Sweetwater, a small city in Miami-Dade County.



In a 1988 photo Manuel Pardo listens as his sentence is read; he was found guilty of nine counts of murder. Pardo, 56, is scheduled to be executed Tuesday night Dec. 11, 2012, at Florida State Prison in Starke barring a last-minute stay, fulfilling a request he made to jurors at his 1988 trial. (AP Photo/The Miami Herald)

Musa, was killed by Pardo. "I still have nightmares and I don't have words to describe it. I can't believe that it's happening."

Pardo, a former Boy Scout and Navy veteran, began his law enforcement career in the 1970s with the Florida

In 1981, Pardo was one of four Sweetwater officers charged with brutality, but the cases were dismissed. In 1982, The Miami Herald reported that Pardo saved a 2-month-old boy's life by reviving him with CPR. Another story, written by

famed South Florida columnist and novelist Carl Hiassen, noted that Pardo arrested a man for stealing valuable parrots and cockatoos to use as live sacrifices for a Santeria ritual. He was fired four years later after he flew to the Bahamas to testify at the trial of a Sweetwater colleague who was accused of drug smuggling. Pardo lied, telling the court they were international undercover agents. Then over a 92-day period in early 1986, Pardo committed a series of robberies, killing six men and three women. He took photos of the victims and recounted some details in his diary, which was found along with newspaper clippings about the murders. Pardo was linked to the killings after using credit cards stolen from the victims. He had become fascinated with Adolf Hitler, collecting Nazi memorabilia. His dog,

a Doberman pinscher, had a swastika tattoo. "He was very cold," retired prosecutor David Waksman told the Herald recently. "He was doing robberies and went home and slept like a baby. He was proud of what he did."

One victim was a confidential informant who sold Pardo guns. Others, like Musa's sister, were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Guralnick thought Pardo was insane and tried to use that as a defense, arguing he couldn't tell right from wrong.

Over Guralnick's objections, Pardo insisted on testifying at his trial, telling jurors that he enjoyed killing people and wished he could have murdered more. "They're parasites and they're leeches, and they have no right to be alive," he said in court. "Somebody had to kill these people." □

Woman guilty of faking hate crime

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — A U.S. woman who claimed she was attacked by men who carved anti-gay slurs into her arms and stomach has pleaded no contest to making a false report. Charlie Rogers entered the plea Monday in Lincoln. It allows the 34-year-old to not admit guilt but

acknowledge that prosecutors have enough evidence to convict her. She could face up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine when sentenced in February. Her attorney says Rogers maintains her innocence but didn't want a court fight. The former University

of Nebraska-Lincoln basketball star was charged a month after telling police in July that three masked men broke into her home, assaulted her and carved derogatory words into her body. Police believe she faked the attack because she thought it would spark change. □

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Four years in, Madoff trustee still pursuing assets

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When he was first told in 2008 about Bernard Madoff's epic pyramid scheme, attorney David Sheehan had a response that now sounds inconceivable.

"Who," he wondered, "is Bernie Madoff?"

Four years after Madoff's arrest, Sheehan has the equivalent of a doctorate on the disgraced financier. Irving Picard, the trustee appointed to recover funds for Madoff victims, and a battalion of lawyers headed by Sheehan have spent long days untangling Madoff's fraud. On the fourth anniversary of Madoff's Dec. 11, 2008, arrest, it's an international effort that shows no signs of slowing.

So far, they have secured nearly \$9.3 billion of the estimated \$17.5 billion that thousands of investors put into Madoff's sham investment business. In a recent interview, Sheehan said his

team at the Manhattan law firm of BakerHostetler is hopeful it can recover \$3 billion more over the next 18 months, cutting investors' losses to around \$5 billion. Of the money col-

lected so far, about \$3 billion has been approved for redistribution to victims through an ongoing claims process.

It's an outcome that neither Sheehan nor Picard thought possible at the outset.

"I don't think either of us thought we could achieve these results," Sheehan



David Sheehan leaves federal court in New York. Irving Picard, the trustee appointed to recover funds for Madoff victims, and a battalion of lawyers headed by Sheehan have spent long days untangling Madoff's fraud. On the fourth anniversary of Madoff's Dec. 11, 2008, arrest, it's an international effort that shows no signs of slowing. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

lectured so far, about \$3 billion has been approved for redistribution to victims through an ongoing claims process.

said. "There's never been any case like this."

Sheehan described the task first faced four years ago as daunting: It required

cracking the code on a secret Ponzi scheme that spanned decades and victimized thousands of customers on a scale never seen before. Madoff, 74, pleaded guilty and is serving a 150-year sentence.

"We had to reconstruct this from ground zero and put it back together again," Sheehan said.

After examining the books at Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, lawyers quickly realized that statements showing investors held more than \$60 billion in securities were fiction.

Madoff made no investments. Instead, principal was simply being paid out bit by bit to other investors. Having to hammer home that reality — over and over — to disbelieving investors was one of the first major hurdles, Sheehan said. Win or lose, Madoff clients were only entitled to what they put in.

Investors who had reaped fake profits had to accept

they had "someone else's money," Sheehan said. "We had no choice but to get it back."

Last year, an appeals court concluded the trustee's calculation was "legally sound" and that a bankruptcy court was correct when it rejected arguments from lawyers for investors who said their clients should receive more than what they initially gave to Madoff.

Picard couldn't be expected "to step into the shoes of the defrauder or treat the customer statements as reflections of reality," the court said.

Most of the conflicts over what's owed to the burned clients have been resolved without a serious fight. But in scores of other cases, the trustee has sued wealthy individuals and institutions, claiming the defendants knew or should have known their returns were fraudulent and asking a judge or bankruptcy judge to force them to return them. □

NYC Orthodox counselor convicted of sex abuse

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A religious counselor in New York's ultra-orthodox Jewish community was convicted Monday of sexually abusing a girl who came to him with questions about her faith. Nechemya Weberman was convicted of 60 counts, including sustained sex abuse of a child, endangering the welfare of a child and other counts. He faces 25 years in prison

on the top charge and two to seven years on the lesser charges. The accuser, now 18, told authorities he abused her repeatedly from the time she was 12 until she was 15.

The case was a crash course for jurors about the customs and rules in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn, home to about 250,000, the largest community outside Israel. It spotlighted the strict rules that govern the Satmar

Hasidic sect. Weberman, 54, is not a licensed counselor, but worked with families within his community for decades. The girl was sent to him because she had been questioning her faith, was dressing immodestly and showing an interest in boys, all violations of the sect's rules. Prosecutors say Weberman molested the girl for years behind a locked office door. Defense attorneys argued the counselor was the victim

of a vindictive child who was angry that he had betrayed her trust when he went to her parents after learning she had a boyfriend. "When she found out that she had been betrayed, she went wild," defense attorney Stacey Richman said. The trial has rocked the insular, tight-knit group, not only because of the shocking charges but also because the case was played out in a public court. The guarded society

strongly discourages going to outside authorities. The victim testified that she and her family were harassed and shunned for coming forward; her father lost his business and her nieces were kicked out of school. During the trial, which began last week, three men were charged with criminal contempt for snapping images of the accuser on the witness stand with cell-phone cameras and posting them online. □

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Judge: Strauss-Kahn, NYC hotel maid settle suit

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn and a New York City hotel maid have signed a settlement of her sexual assault lawsuit, a judge announced Monday, saying terms of the deal were confidential. The lawsuit related to a May 2011 hotel suite encounter that also led to criminal charges, forced Strauss-Kahn's resignation from the IMF and cut off his potential candidacy for the French presidency.

The criminal case was dropped after prosecutors said his accuser, the Guinean-born Nafissatou Diallo, had credibility problems. She said she always told the truth about the encounter. Strauss-Kahn called her lawsuit defamatory and countersued for \$1 million. Strauss-Kahn's lawyers acknowledged late last month there had been settlement talks, though they dismissed as "flatly false" a French newspaper report that Strauss-Kahn had agreed to pay \$6 million. Diallo's lawyers declined to comment. Both Diallo's and Strauss-Kahn's lives have been upended since the day that she reported he forced her to perform oral sex and tried to rape her after she went to clean his room. He has said what happened



Nafissatou Diallo, a hotel housekeeper who alleged that she was sexually assaulted by former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn, appears in court with her lawyer Kenneth Thompson in New York, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. Diallo settled her lawsuit against Strauss-Kahn, although the amount of the settlement was kept confidential.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

was "a moral failing" but was consensual. Strauss-Kahn did not attend Monday's hearing. Diallo looked composed and resolute as the deal was announced. "Ms. Diallo is ready to move on," her attorney Kenneth Thompson said afterward. Strauss-Kahn's attorney, William W. Taylor III, thanked the judge. Diallo, 33, the widowed mother of a teenage girl, hasn't returned to the job she held for three years at the Sofitel New York. She is on workers' compensation, the hotel chain says. Her lawyers have said Strauss-

Kahn tore a ligament in her shoulder, which he disputes. Strauss-Kahn, 63, was arrested and charged with attempted rape and other crimes and resigned from his IMF job. He soon found himself recast from promising, if philandering,

French presidential contender to transcontinental sexual suspect. Since Diallo came forward, other sexual assault and prostitution allegations have emerged against him. Though some were withdrawn or deemed too

old for prosecutors to pursue, he faces aggravated pimping charges related to a suspected prostitution ring run from a French luxury hotel. He says he attended "libertine" gatherings but wasn't aware anyone was paid for sex. A French court is due to rule Dec. 19 on his bid to get those charges thrown out. Strauss-Kahn and his wife, journalist Ann Sinclair, have separated. Strauss-Kahn has been trying to rebuild his professional stature by giving speeches at international conferences and reportedly setting up a consulting company in Paris. Manhattan prosecutors dropped their case against Strauss-Kahn in August 2011, saying they had developed doubts about Diallo's trustworthiness. They said she had wavered in recounting her movements after the alleged attack and lied to them about her past, including a convincing but fictitious story of being gang-raped before. □

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Egypt's military takes over security ahead of vote

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military assumed responsibility Monday for protecting state institutions and maintaining security ahead of a Dec. 15 constitutional referendum, as the country braced for another round of mass demonstrations by the supporters of the country's Islamist president and the liberal opposition over the disputed charter.

The referendum on a contentious new constitution lies at the heart of a bitter political battle that has deeply polarized Egypt and triggered some of the worst street violence between backers and opponents of President Mohammed Morsi since he took power in June as the country's first democratically elected leader.

So far, Morsi has stood firm on the referendum, refusing to yield to opposition demands that he scrap the vote scheduled for Saturday. The opposition, meanwhile, was still trying to decide late Monday whether to boycott the referendum or rally Egyptians to vote "no" to the draft constitution, and hoping that a massive turnout for a rally Tuesday would force the

president to cancel the balloting.

"We still have a chance, with popular rejection, to stop the referendum," said Basil Adel, a former lawmaker and liberal activist. Egypt's political crisis began on Nov. 22

from judicial oversight or challenge. Those decrees sparked mass demonstrations, with opponents saying they were issued initially to protect the draft charter from the judiciary. The constituent assembly then hurriedly approved the draft

Brotherhood, are monopolizing power and trying to force their agenda into practice. That prompted hundreds of thousands of the president's opponents to take to the streets in massive rallies — the largest from primarily sec-

of their own, which led to clashes in the streets that left at least six people dead and hundreds wounded. Morsi has rescinded the decree that gave him absolute powers, but did not meet the opposition's main demand and delay the referendum.

With tensions running high in the country, the president on Sunday ordered the military to take responsibility for security and protect state institutions along with the police until the results of the constitutional referendum are announced. On Monday, the army took up the task in line with the presidential decree, which also grants the military the right to arrest civilians.

Presidential spokesman Yasser Ali tried to downplay concerns the move was a step toward martial law, saying instead that "it is merely a measure to extend legal cover for the armed forces while they are used to maintain security." There were no signs of an increased military presence outside the presidential palace, where tanks have been deployed since last week's fierce street clashes, or elsewhere in the capital on Monday. Still, the decision to lean on the military, which had a spotty record over the tumultuous 16 months that it ran Egypt after Mubarak's fall, prompted concern among international rights groups.

"Considering the track record of the army while they were in charge, with more than 120 protesters killed and in excess of 12,000 civilians unfairly tried before military courts, this sets a dangerous precedent," said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui of Amnesty International. Human Rights Watch called on Morsi to put limits to military's policing powers to prohibit trials of civilians in front of military tribunals. Activists and rights groups have documented a catalog of human rights violations by authorities during the period of military rule.

Judges have gone on strike to protest Morsi's decrees, which they perceive as an "assault" on the judiciary, and have said they would not oversee the Dec. 15 vote as is customary for judges in Egypt.



Egyptian Field Marshal Gen. Hussein Tantawi, left, President Mohammed Morsi, center, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sami Anan, right, at a military base east of Cairo, Egypt. Egypt's military assumed responsibility Monday for protecting state institutions and maintaining security ahead of a Dec. 15 constitutional referendum, (AP Photo/Sherif Abd El Minoem)

when Morsi issued a decree granting himself — and the Islamist-dominated panel writing the constitution — immunity

constitution in a marathon overnight session, further inflaming those who claim that Morsi and his Islamist allies, including the Muslim

ular groups since the uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak last year. Morsi's supporters responded with huge demonstrations

Netanyahu: World has double standards

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister on Monday accused the international community of "deafening silence" in response to recent vows by the head of the Hamas militant group to fight on until the Jewish state is destroyed, and appeared unmoved by the gathering storm of global condemnation of his government's plans to continue settling the West Bank. Benjamin Netanyahu's tough words were likely to deepen the rift between Israel and some of its closest allies, particularly in Europe, that has emerged since the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in favor of Palestinian independence last month. In a sign of the tense relations, European Union foreign ministers were gathered in Brussels to con-

demn new settlement construction that Netanyahu has authorized in response to the U.N. decision. Speaking to foreign reporters, Netanyahu ac-

while standing quiet during a historic visit to the Gaza Strip by Hamas' exiled leader, Khaled Mashaal.

Making his first trip to the Hamas-ruled territory over



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures as he speaks during an event with foreign press in Jerusalem, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. (AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

cused the international community of having double standards, condemning not-yet-built settlements in the West Bank

the weekend, Mashaal delivered a series of speeches to throngs of supporters vowing to wipe Israel off the map. The visit under-

scored Hamas' rising clout and regional acceptance since its eight-day conflict with Israel last month.

Netanyahu also directed his ire at Hamas' rival, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, for not speaking out. "This weekend the leader of Hamas, sitting next to the Hamas leader of Gaza, a man who praised Osama Bin Laden, this weekend openly called for the destruction of Israel. Where was the outrage? Where were the U.N. resolutions? Where was President Abbas?" Netanyahu said.

"Why weren't Palestinian diplomats summoned to European and other capitals to explain why the PA president not only refused to condemn this but actually declared his intention to unite with Hamas."

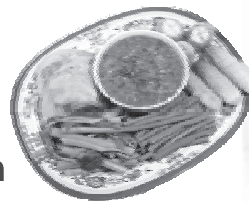
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EU receives Nobel Peace Prize amid protest

BJOERN H. AMLAND

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The EU received the Nobel Peace Prize on Monday for promoting peace and human rights in Europe following the devastation of World War II, and the bloc

years ago as Europe was struggling to recover from a war that killed millions of people.

Three Peace Prize laureates — South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland and Adolfo Perez Esquivel

ed out the Nobel diplomas and medals to EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy and president of the EU Parliament Martin Schulz before at a ceremony in Oslo's City Hall attended by heads of state, royalty and international dignitaries. In his awarding speech, Ja-

gland said the EU had been instrumental in turning "a continent of war" into one of peace.

"In this process the European Union has figured most prominently," he told an applauding gathering of several hundred people. This year's prize comes against a backdrop of protests as the debt crisis for

countries using the euro currency triggers tensions within the union, causing soaring unemployment and requiring massive austerity measures.

The EU's institutions, and the member countries, have been criticized for reacting too slowly to the crisis, which has continued for three years. □



A police officer looks at a banner held by protesters who oppose the Nobel award being given to the EU, in Oslo, Norway, Monday Dec. 10, 2012.

(AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

was urged to use that unity in its battle with an economic crisis that is causing suffering for many of its citizens.

About 20 European government leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Premier Mario Monti, attended the ceremony in the capital of Norway, an oil-rich country that has twice rejected joining the European Union.

Not everyone approved the decision to give the prize to the EU, created 60

from Argentina — have demanded that the prize money of \$1.2 million not be paid this year. They said the bloc contradicts the values associated with the prize because it relies on military force to ensure security.

Amnesty International said Monday that EU leaders should not "bask in the glow of the prize," warning that xenophobia and intolerance are now on the rise in the continent of 500 million people.

Prize committee Chairman Thorbjørn Jagland hand-

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Italian election equates to new anxiety for eurozone

DAVID McHUGH

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Until last weekend, Europe seemed headed for a quiet Christmas and New Year's. Then Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti unexpectedly announced he was going to resign, pulling the plug on a government that had boosted confidence in the country's ability to manage its debts. The prospect of a return to a shaky government and finances has suddenly put new strains on the leaders of the 17-strong group of European Union countries that use the euro and their efforts to bottle up the region's debt and economic crisis.

Analysts warn that after several months of calm, the eurozone could now be in for a rougher ride as 2013 begins.

The concern is that, while the European debt crisis is not as bad as it was last summer, Italy's problems will spread and further unsettle other parts of the eurozone. Greece faces skepticism that it can keep paying its debts despite €240 billion in bailouts and Spain is still weighing whether to ask for a rescue from the eurozone's bailout fund. Since it took office in November 2011 — after markets lost confidence in Premier Silvio Berlusconi's half-hearted attempts at reform — Monti's 13-month old government has managed to lower Italy's borrowing costs in the bond markets — albeit with help from the European Central Bank

and its offer to buy short-term debt. His unelected cabinet of experts had until elections scheduled for April to implement reforms. Monti resigned earlier than



A man checks stock exchange data as a flower seller approaches him in Milan, Italy, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. Investors and European leaders worried Monday over Italy's political and financial future following Premier Mario Monti's surprise decision to resign.

expected after Berlusconi's party withdrew support for his government on Thursday. Italy's borrowing costs started to rise again Monday morning as investors worried over who would keep the country on the path to recovery. The interest rate on Italy's 10-year bonds, a key indicator of the debt crisis, jumped to 4.75 percent. Last week they yielded only 4.4 percent — down from over 7 percent at the start of 2012. At one point during the day, Italian stocks slumped more than 3 percent.

"The uncertainty is significant, not just how the election will pan out, but how the government will turn out and what the debate is going to be like," said ana-

lyst Raoul Ruparel at the Open Europe think tank in London.

"And that's not something markets like. You add in the Greek uncertainty and

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

Spanish uncertainty on top of that... and that's a worrying confluence of factors for a pretty fragile eurozone at the moment. "

The risk from Saturday's announcement is that heavily indebted Italy, the eurozone's third-largest economy after Germany and France, will now slow down or halt efforts to shake up its economy. The country's debt stands at 126 percent of its annual gross domestic product of €1.6 trillion (\$2.1 trillion).

After passing a 2013 budget, the Italian parliament will likely pass little in the way of new measures for several months. And Italy could come out of new elections — expected in February — with no party clearly in control. □

UK detectives arrest 6th person in sex abuse case

LONDON (AP) — British police on Monday arrested another suspect in the sex abuse probe spurred by allegations against the late BBC entertainer Jimmy Savile.

The Metropolitan Police said officers arrested a man in his 60s on suspicion of sexual offences. The man, who was not identified, was taken to a London police station for questioning and was later released on bail until January, Scotland Yard said.

Six people have been arrested while a seventh has been questioned. No one

has been charged.

The arrest is the latest in Operation Yewtree, a broad investigation into child sex abuse spurred by the case of Savile, a popular BBC children's program presenter who has been accused of serial sex abuse of underage girls.

Police say there may be several hundred victims of Savile, who died last year aged 84.

The Savile allegations have embarrassed the BBC, which has been accused of failing to report on investigations into Savile's alleged crimes. □

Australian DJs apologize for tragic 'royal hoax call' death

KRISTEN GELINEAU

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — They say they expected a hang-up and a few laughs. Instead, the Australian DJs behind a hoax phone call to the London hospital where the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge was being treated were deeply apologetic Monday as they described how their joke ended up going too far.

The phone call — in which they impersonated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles — went through, and their station broadcast and even trumpeted the confidential information received. Whatever pride there had been over the hoax was obliterated by worldwide public outrage after Friday's death of Jacintha Saldanha, the first

nurse they talked to.

"There's not a minute that goes by that we don't think about her family and what they must be going through," 2DayFM radio host Mel Greig told Australia's "A Current Affair," her voice shaking. "And the thought that we may have played a part in that is gut-wrenching."

Police have not disclosed the cause of Saldanha's death, but many have assumed it was related to the stress from the call. An autopsy is being held Tuesday.

Prime Minister David Cameron said at a luncheon Monday that "the suicide of this nurse, who worked incredibly hard and obviously was incredibly dedicated ... is an absolute tragedy." □

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Dutchman launches life-sized replica of Noah's Ark

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press
DORDRECHT, Netherlands
(AP) — Just as the first storms of winter roll in, Dutchman Johan Huibers has finished his 20-year quest to build a full-scale, functioning mod-

lies moored in the city of Dordrecht, just south of Rotterdam. Gazing across the ark's main hold, a huge space of stalls supported by a forest of pine trees, visitors gaze upon an array of stuffed

He cites a New Testament passage prophesying that "the cities of the coast shall tremble" near the end of times. But he's not worried the whole Earth will ever be flooded again. In the Bible, the rainbow is God's prom-

and dress, scenes from the life of Noah, and games for kids, including water pumps and a system of levers to lift bales of hay.

Down below there is a honeycomb system of hatches, each opening into an area where food could be sealed in for long-term storage. There is an outdoor space near the stern with a dizzying series of stairwells. Walking around, Johan points out features such as the curvature of the upper deck, which he said would have been used to collect rainwater for drinking, as well as for letting animals such as horses out to exercise where they could run around.

"You might know the story

of Noah, okay, but if you see this you begin to get an idea of how it would actually have worked in practice."

Huibers says he's considering where to take the floating attraction next, including European ports or even across the Atlantic — though the latter would require transport aboard an even bigger ship.

But Huibers is also working on a new dream, perhaps even more unlikely than the first one: he wants to get Israelis and Arabs to cooperate and build a water pipeline from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea.

"If you have faith, anything is possible," he says. □



Johan Huibers poses for a portrait in front of the full scale replica of Noah's Ark in Dordrecht, Netherlands, Monday Dec. 10, 2012. The Ark has opened its doors in the Netherlands after receiving permission to receive up to 3,000 visitors per day.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

el of Noah's Ark — an undertaking of, well, biblical proportions. Huibers, a Christian, used books 6-9 of Genesis as his inspiration, following the instructions God gives Noah down to the last cubit. Translating to modern measurements, Huibers came up with a vessel that works out to a whopping 427 feet (130 meters) long, 95 feet (29 meters) across and 75 feet (23 meters) high. Perhaps not big enough to fit every species on Earth, two by two, as described in the Bible, but plenty of space, for instance, for a pair elephants to dance a tango. Johan's Ark towers across the flat Dutch landscape and is easily visible from a nearby highway where it

and plastic animals, such as buffalo, zebra, gorillas, lions, tigers, bears, you name it. Elsewhere on the ark is a petting zoo with actual live animals that are less dangerous or easier to care for — such as ponies, dogs, sheep, and rabbits — and an impressive aviary of exotic birds. "This boat — it's amazing," said Alfred Jongile, visiting from South Africa with his Dutch wife. For Huibers, a builder by trade, it all began with a nightmare he had in 1992, when the low-lying Netherlands was flooded, as it has been many times throughout its history. Huibers thinks that new floods are possible, not least due to global warming.

ise it won't be. "I had a call from American television," he says, laughing. "This has nothing to do with the end of the Mayan calendar," he said. He said his motivation is ultimately religious, though. He wants to make people think what their purpose is on Earth. "I want to make people question that so that they go looking for answers," and ultimately find salvation through God and eternal life, he said. Johan's Ark also contains a restaurant on the top-most level and a movie theater capable of seating 50 people. Around the edges of each level of the craft are displays on ancient Middle Eastern history

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Report:

Asian economies expected to surpass US, Europe



A customer checks bottles of imported wine at a supermarket in Beijing. Rising incomes have driven demand for wine and other luxury goods, making China a lifeline for European and American vineyards when the global crisis battered traditional markets. (AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

KIMBERLY DOZIER

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States could see its standing as a superpower eroded and Asian economies will outstrip those of North America and Europe combined by 2030, according to the best guess of the U.S. intelligence com-

munity in its latest forecast. "The spectacular rise of Asian economies is dramatically altering ... U.S. influence," said Christopher Kojm, chairman of the National Intelligence Council, as it released the report Global Trends 2030 on Monday. The report is the intelli-

gence community's analysis of where current trends will take the world in the next 15 to 20 years. Its release was timed for the start of a new presidential administration and it is aimed at helping U.S. policymakers plan for the future. The report also predicted the U.S. will be energy independent.

The study said that in a best-case scenario, Americans, together with nearly two-thirds of the world's population, will be middle class, mostly living in cities, connected by advanced technology, protected by advanced health care and linked by countries that work together, perhaps with the United States and China cooperating to lead the way.

Violent acts of terrorism will also be less frequent as the U.S. drawdown in troops from Iraq and Afghanistan robs extremist ideologies

of a rallying cry to spur attacks. But that will likely be replaced by acts like cyber-terrorism, wreaking havoc on an economy with a keystroke, the study's authors say.

In countries where there are declining birth rates and an aging population like the U.S., economic growth may slow.

"Aging countries will face an uphill battle in maintaining living standards," Kojm said. "So too will China, because its median age will be higher than the U.S. by 2030."

The rising populations of disenfranchised youth in places like Nigeria and Pakistan may lead to conflict over water and food, with "nearly half of the world's population ... experiencing severe water stress," the report said. Africa and the Middle East will be most at risk, but China and India are also vulnerable. □

November trade weak for Chinese

JOE McDONALD

AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's trade weakened sharply in November, adding to challenges for the world's second-largest economy as a gradual recovery takes shape.

Export growth plunged to 2.9 percent over a year earlier from the previous month's 11.6 percent, customs data showed Monday. Imports were flat, down from October's 2.4 percent growth.

The figures were in line with analysts' warnings that a trade rebound that began in August was unsustainable due to weak global demand amid Europe's debt problems and a slow U.S. recovery.

The trade weakness comes as stronger factory production and consumer spending show China is starting to emerge from its deepest economic downturn since the 2008 global crisis.

China's reliance on trade has declined as domestic consumption grows but export-driven manufacturing still employs millions of workers and any weakness raises the risk of job losses and unrest.

Global demand for China's goods is so weak that the government has said exports likely will contribute nothing to this year's overall economic growth.

Western export markets face uncertainties including the U.S. "fiscal cliff" — or impending automatic tax and spending cuts that could disrupt economic growth — and the euro area debt crisis.

"These potential external headwinds remain a major risk for the China economy in the near term," said J.P. Morgan economists in a report.

The International Monetary Fund and others are forecasting Chinese growth this year below 8 percent. That would be strong by the standards of struggling Western economies but China's weakest performance since the 1990s. □

PM to block further Chinese ownership in oil sands

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's prime minister said Monday it's "extremely unlikely" his government will allow any more foreign takeovers in the oil sands sector by state-owned companies. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government approved China's biggest overseas energy acquisition on Friday, a \$15.1 billion takeover by Chinese-state owned CNOOC of Canadian oil and gas provider Nexen. Harper also approved a smaller deal, Malaysian state-owned oil firm Petronas' \$5.2 billion bid for Progress Energy. But Harper vowed Friday reject any further foreign takeovers in the oil sands by state-owned companies unless there are "exceptional circumstances." He didn't elaborate.

On Monday he went even further. "I think we have been very clear that controlling interest takeovers by foreign governments in the oil sands are extremely unlikely to be approved by this government in the fu-

ture," Harper said in Parliament.

Natural Resource Minister Joe Oliver also stated Monday that foreign control in the oil sands sector by state-owned companies has reached its limit. He said CNOOC's takeover likely would not have been approved under new tougher new foreign investment rules. Concerns had been raised that the approvals could lead to a flood of foreign takeovers that put control of Canada's vast energy resources in China's hands. Harper said the markets and Canadians are supportive of Canada's new rules. "Canada is open for business, but that does not mean that Canada is open for sale to foreign governments," Harper said.

Canada's new foreign takeover rules may not go over well in China where they are eager for an even greater share of Canada's oil. Alberta has the world's third-largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela: more than 170 billion barrels. Daily production of 1.5 million barrels from the



A man walks past the headquarters of the state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) in Beijing, China. Canada approved China's biggest overseas energy acquisition, a \$15.1 billion takeover by state-owned CNOOC of Canadian oil and gas producer Nexen, but vowed Monday to reject any future foreign takeovers in the oil sands sector by state-owned companies. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

oil sands is expected to increase to 3.7 million in 2025. Harper said Friday the Nexen deal by itself was OK, but said the potential for more takeovers raised alarms.

The prime minister noted that 15 companies dominate production in the Alberta oil sands and said the sector represents 60 percent of all the oil production around the world that is not already in state hands. He feared a few larger purchases by foreign

state-owned companies could rapidly transform the industry from one that is essentially a free market industry to one that is effectively under the control of a foreign government. Oliver reiterated that Monday. "The percentage of state-owned, Chinese-owned, investment in the oil sands in terms of future production will still be under 10 percent and so we didn't feel with the acquisition the number was excessive. □



In honor of the official opening celebration: Duo of Chefs Dazzle Diners at Ike's Bistro

EAGLE BEACH - Chef Alberto and Chef Ever have been dazzling diners at Ike's Bistro, Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, as the restaurant is hosting a series of unique culinary events pairing gourmet food and fine wines, for a week aptly titled The Mediterranean Meets the Caribbean, at Ike's Bistro.

The two chefs are collaborating on a menu of specialties, serving a 4-course tasting extravaganza including wines, featuring delicate grilled giant scallops on a bed of slightly-sweet corn puree, drizzled with orange vinaigrette, grilled jumbo shrimp on a cushion of flavorful tomato risotto, and sirloin with bleu cheese potatoes, wilted greens, over an aromatic thyme sauce. A wonderful banana crème brulee for dessert concludes the experience escorted by a flight of excellent wines. The wines, two by Marques



de Caceres, one white, Young White 2011, and one red, Crianza Rioja 2007, also include Maison Louis Latour, Ardeche Chardonnay, 2010, and Wente Vineyard's Morning Fog Chardonnay, 2010. The wines were carefully selected by local wine expert Govert van der Hout, who worked with Chef Ever with the goal of presenting a veritable feast.

Ike's Bistro is a contemporary marriage of Mediterranean and Caribbean cooking. The menu was inspired by the founder of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, the late hotelier Ike Cohen who is credited with jumpstarting Aruba's culinary quest for excellence, since his arrival on the island in the 60s. □



At Amazonia Churrascaria: Colegio students enjoy dinner and fun gift exchange

PALM BEACH – A most glamorous group of youngsters from Aruba's premier high school, Colegio Arubano celebrated the holidays in community at Amazonia Churrascaria over sumptuous dinner, followed by a fun gift exchange. The restaurant has been hosting groups big and small for traditional holiday get-togethers, accommodating big and small appetites with grilled meats and fresh salads, with many customized options, for lunch and dinner parties. □



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Marianela Parra

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Cas di Glas 2012 is ready with Flora's Santa Claus Caminata

The 5K walk with which the fundraising event called Cas di Glas 2012 opens bears the name Flora's Santa Claus Caminata. The idea behind it is that 500 participants, all dressed like Santa Clauses, will take a walk along the hi-rise strip. The walk and Santa suits are sponsored by Flora, the premier home and garden center on the island, and the entire registration fee, the suit included, of AWG. 25,- (or \$ 15,-) goes towards the charity of this year's event, Wit Gele Kruis Aruba, in particular towards the elderly on the island. Registration is already open, so get your Santa suit at Flora, Idefre, Taste of Belgium Restaurant, CILO City Lounge or Le Bistro at the Paseo Herencia Mall and come and walk along.

Flora's Santa Claus Caminata is held on December 12; the start is at 5.30 - registration is open at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall on Wednesday from 4 pm on. Several companies have already bought a number of suits, among them Aruba Bank. And, do you know, Santa suits are really hot this year, the latest fashion! The suits come complete with beard, so you don't need a few days' time to let your own beard grow. For more information about Cas di Glas (held from December 12 - 16), the activities, the artists that are performing and much more, please look at FB or surf to www.casdiglas.com. Photo shows some very tired Santas - they have been sewing the costumes for the caminata like crazy! □

Aruba Tourism Authority says Thanks:

Group of loyal visitors honored at the Aruba Divi Village



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Aruba Divi Village, as Distinguished Visitor and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19, and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were John and Kathy

Paulenich, Cliff and Claudia Vaudreuil, Charles and Sharon Nemser, and Dean and Diane Pastula. The honorees are loyal members of the Aruba Divi Village, and they love the Island very much, because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and the safety of the island. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with staff members of the Aruba Divi Village. □



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Arturo Gatti, Virgil Hill enter boxing Hall of Fame

JOHN KEKIS

AP Sports Writer

SYRACUSE, New York (AP)

— Arturo "Thunder" Gatti didn't live to see his finest day.

Gatti, who won world championships in two different weight classes, heads the class of 2013 to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. The honor, announced Monday, comes three years after his untimely death.

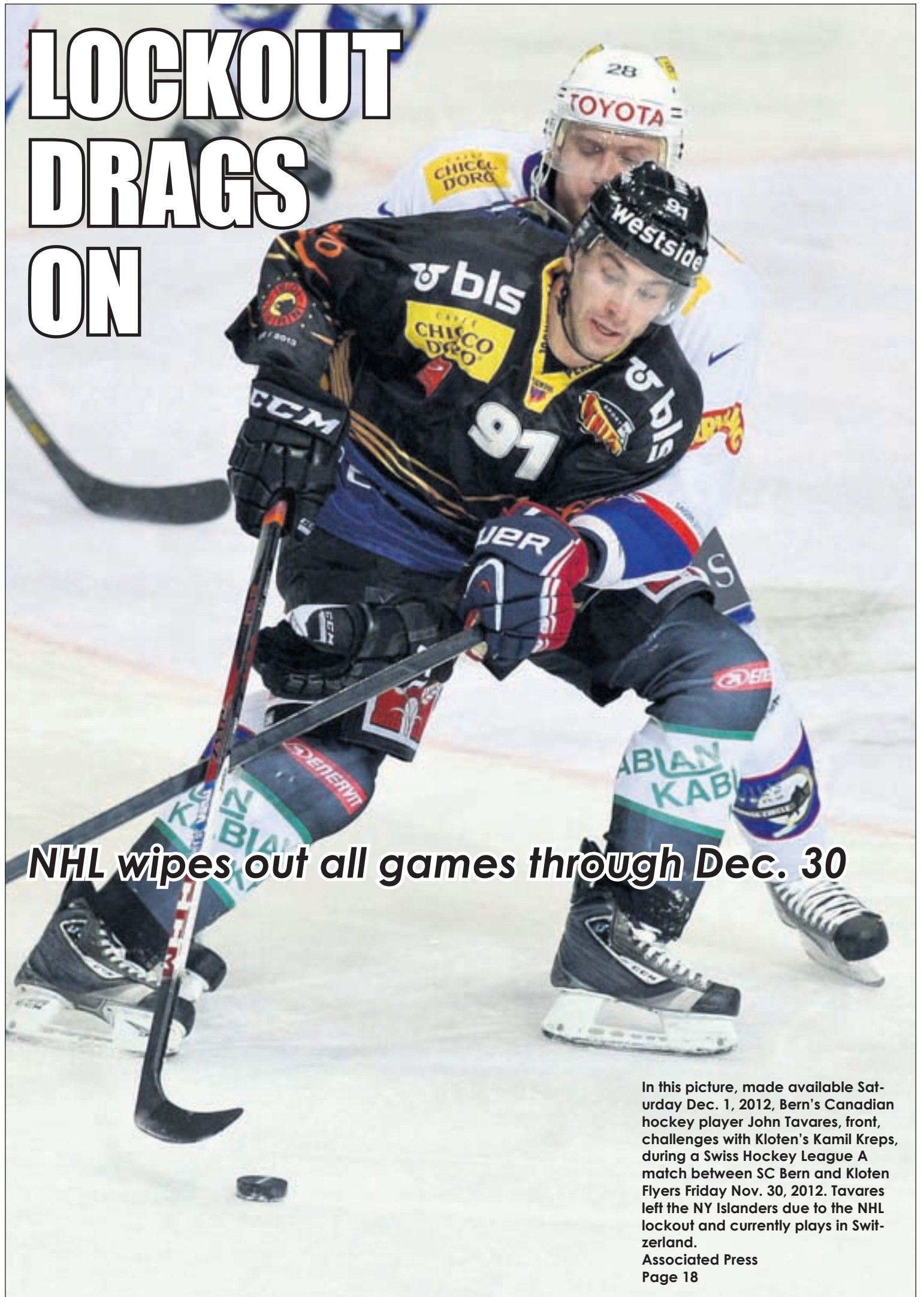
A native of Calabria, Italy who was raised in Montreal, Gatti retired in 2007 with a record of 40-9 with 31 knockouts and was selected in his first year of eligibility. Gatti died three years ago in Brazil at age 37 under mysterious circumstances.

"He gave it all in the ring," said "Irish" Micky Ward, who had three memorable bouts with Gatti. "He gave everything to the sport of boxing. He gave the fans what they wanted."

Also selected for induction were: Virgil "Quicksilver" Hill, a five-time world champion who won a silver medal at the 1984 Olympics and defended his light heavyweight title 20 times over his two reigns; two-time light flyweight champion Myung-Woo Yuh of South Korea; lightweight Wesley Ramsey and middleweight Jeff Smith in the old-timer (posthumous) category; 19th century Irish boxer Joe Coburn in the pioneer category; referee Mills Lane; ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr.; manager Arturo "Cuyo" Hernandez; cartoonist Ted Carroll; and journalist Colin Hart.

Continued on Page 20

LOCKOUT DRAGS ON



NHL wipes out all games through Dec. 30

In this picture, made available Saturday Dec. 1, 2012, Bern's Canadian hockey player John Tavares, front, challenges with Kloten's Kamil Kreps, during a Swiss Hockey League A match between SC Bern and Kloten Flyers Friday Nov. 30, 2012. Tavares left the NY Islanders due to the NHL lockout and currently plays in Switzerland.

Associated Press
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NHL cancels games through to December 30th

IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL eliminated 16 more days from the regular-season schedule Monday, and if a deal with the players' association isn't reached soon the whole season could be lost.

The league wiped out all games through Dec. 30 in its latest round of cancellations. Already, 422 regular-season games had been called off through Dec. 14 because of the lockout, and the latest cuts on Day 86 of the NHL shutdown claimed 104 more. The New Year's Day Winter Classic and the All-Star game were canceled earlier.

In all, the 526 lost games account for nearly 43 percent of the regular season that was scheduled to begin Oct. 11.

The cancellation of just two more weeks of the season, however, could perhaps signal hope of a deal to begin play in early January. Negotiations between the league and the play-



In this file photo taken Dec. 6, 2012, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, right, and deputy commissioner Bill Daly speak to reporters in New York.

Associated Press

ers' association broke off last week, but NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Sunday the sides are trying to restart talks this week.

Daly wrote in an email to The Associated Press on Monday that nothing had been completed regarding a meeting with the union.

Whenever the sides do get back together, they will

need to work quickly on a new collective bargaining agreement. Commissioner Gary Bettman said last week, after the most recent round of negotiations, that a season must consist of at least 48 games to protect its integrity. That's the same number of games played during the lockout-shortened 1994-95 season. The 1995 lockout ended

Jan. 11. The season then began nine days later and lasted until May 3. That marked the only time the NHL season has stretched until May. Each team played 48 games, solely within its own conference, which is likely the model the league would follow this time if a settlement is reached soon.

"When it gets to the point where we can't play a season with integrity, with a representative schedule, then we'll be done," Bettman said on Thursday. "If you go back in history, in '94-95 I think we played 48 games. I can't imagine wanting to play fewer than that."

Depending on who was asked last week, the message was either the sides were close to a deal or nowhere near one.

Players' association executive director Donald Fehr said Thursday night, after three straight days of negotiations, that he believed an agreement was close, only to change his position

moments later when the NHL rejected the union's most recent offer.

Bettman disagreed that a deal was near and then angrily announced the league was rescinding every offer it had put on the table since the start of negotiations.

The NHL and the players are trying to avoid the loss of a full season for the second time in eight years. The 2004-05 lockout, that eventually produced a salary cap for the first time in league history, was the first labor dispute to force a totally canceled season in North American professional sports.

The season was called off Feb. 16, and an agreement was reached on July 13. The lockout ended nine days later, after the deal was ratified by both sides, allowing for the following season to begin on time. That agreement reached then was in place until this year, and the current lockout began right after its expiration on Sept. 16. □

Otani's reversal on MLB plans raises questions

TOKYO (AP) — High school pitcher Shohei Otani's decision to stay in Japan instead of pursuing a career in Major League Baseball has left some questioning the integrity of the country's amateur draft.

The 18-year-old Otani said before November's draft he intended to pursue a career in the major leagues straight out of high school, where he was known for throwing a fastball close to 100 mph (160 kph).

Despite his intentions, the 6-foot-4 (1.93-meter) right-hander was selected by

the Nippon Ham Fighters in the first round. Following the draft, the Fighters waged an aggressive campaign to convince Otani to stay in Japan instead of going overseas, with the team's hierarchy holding a series of meetings with Otani and his parents.

Otani announced Sunday he would play for the Fighters next season.

The Fighters were the only team that selected Otani. The other 11 teams in Japanese professional baseball decided not to draft him knowing his desire to play

in MLB.

"There were a lot of back-room discussions," Rakuten Eagles manager Senichi Hoshino was quoted in Monday's Nikkansports. "If you are going to have such things going on it could ruin the draft."

The Fighters were determined to convince Otani, detailing the hardships he would face in the U.S. and even offering him the No. 11 uniform previously worn by Yu Darvish, who now plays for the Texas Rangers. Otani said he still wants to play in the major leagues



In this photo taken July 26, 2012, Hanamaki Higashi High School pitcher Shohei Otani delivers a pitch during the final game of the Iwate prefectural high school baseball tournament in Hanamaki, northeastern Japan.

Associated Press

someday, but it may be a long time before he's able to fulfill those dreams.

Players in Japanese professional baseball must wait nine seasons before becoming free agents

eligible to play in MLB, although some have gone earlier through the posting system that allows MLB teams to bid for the rights to negotiate with Japanese players. □

Locked-out players hope to resume talks with NHL

LARRY LAGE, AP Hockey Writer

WINDSOR, Ontario (AP) — Thanks to a charity game, three NHL players — Kevin

Westgarth, Shawn Horcoff and Jamal Mayers — got a chance to get more comfortable on the ice than they were earlier in the

week.

They were playing hockey in a Canadian rink Saturday night, two days after being part of the union negotiat-

ing team in a New York hotel where labor talks with the league fell apart.

"I'm happy to be in a situation to do it, but I'd rather

be on the ice," said Westgarth, a Los Angeles Kings forward.

"That's where I want to be." □

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NFL Capsules

Griffin hurt, but Redskins top Ravens 31-28 in OT

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP)

— With Robert Griffin III sidelined with a sprained right knee, the Washington Redskins rallied behind backup Kirk Cousins to tie the game in the final minute of regulation, then Kai Forbath kicked a 34-yard field goal in overtime Sunday for a 31-28 victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

Griffin was hurt at the end of a 13-yard scramble while attempting to lead the game-tying drive with the Redskins trailing 28-20. He left for one play, returned for four, then was no longer able to continue.

Cousins stepped in and hit Pierre Garcon for an 11-yard touchdown pass, then ran in the 2-point conversion with 29 seconds to play. The Redskins have won four straight to improve to 7-6. The Ravens lost back-to-back games for the first time since 2009 and fell to 9-4.

COWBOYS 20, BENGALS 19 CINCINNATI (AP) — The grieving Cowboys rallied for a significant win on Dan Bailey's 40-yard field goal as time ran out.

Dallas overcame a nine-point deficit in the closing minutes behind Tony Romo, who held his hand over his heart during a moment of silence to honor teammate Jerry Brown before the kickoff. Brown died in an auto accident early Saturday. Defensive lineman Josh Brent, who was driving, remained in jail in Irving, Texas, charged with intoxication manslaughter. The Cowboys (7-6) learned about Brown's death on their flight to Cincinnati on Saturday. Coach Jason Garrett told his team that the best way to honor him was to play well in a game with playoff implications for both teams. A late come-



Washington Redskins kicker Kai Forbath celebrates the winning field goal with Sav Rocca during overtime of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Landover, Md., Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012. The Redskins won 31-28. Associated Press

back was just enough to beat the Bengals (7-6). Romo threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Dez Bryant, then led the drive to Bailey's kick.

GIANTS 52, SAINTS 27 EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Rookie David Wilson returned a kick-off 97 yards for one touchdown, ran for two more scores and piled up 327 all-purpose yards and Eli Manning threw four touchdown passes to lead the Giants. The win allowed New York (8-5) to maintain its one-game lead in the NFC East over Washington and Dallas. The loss all but ended the playoff hopes of Drew Brees and the Saints (5-8), who turned the ball over four times in losing their third straight. Manning had TD passes of 6 yards to Martellus Bennett, 5 yards to Domenik Hixon, 25 yards to Hakeem Nicks and 10 yards to Victor Cruz. Wilson scored on runs of 6 and 52 yards and finished with 100 yards on 13 carries on the

biggest day of his career. **SEAHAWKS 58, CARDINALS 0 SEATTLE (AP)** — Marshawn Lynch had three touchdown runs and Seattle set a franchise record for points. The Seahawks forced eight turnovers. Richard Sherman and Bobby Wagner each had two interceptions.

Seattle (8-5) kept firm grasp on the final NFC wild-card spot and kept alive slim chances of catching San Francisco in the NFC West race. The Seahawks also picked up their first division victory and assured coach Pete Carroll of his first eight-win season in three years with them. The 58-0 victory was the biggest shut-out in Seattle's history. Leon Washington's 3-yard TD run with 2:32 left set a franchise record for points. Arizona (4-9) was shut out for the first time since 2003 against Seattle. The effortless performance will only raise questions about Ken Whisenhunt's future as coach. Arizona lost its ninth

straight overall. **PACKERS 27, LIONS 20 GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AP)** — Green Bay is a victory away from clinching the NFC North title after beating Detroit. DaJuan Harris rushed for a score in his first appearance for the Packers, Aaron Rodgers added the longest TD run of his career, and Mike Daniels returned a fumble 43 yards as the Packers (9-4) opened a one-game lead over Chicago. Beat the Bears next weekend at Soldier Field, and Green Bay will win the NFC North for a second straight year. The loss was the fifth straight for Detroit (4-9). This wasn't quite as excruciating as the previous three, though, when the Lions gave up fourth-quarter leads and fell by a total of nine points. The Packers have won 22 straight at home against the Lions, the longest streak in the NFL.

49ERS 27, DOLPHINS 13 SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Frank Gore ran for a 1-yard

touchdown and reached 1,000 yards rushing for the sixth time in his career.

Gore finished with 63 yards, Anthony Dixon also had a 1-yard scoring run and Colin Kaepernick ran for a late 50-yard touchdown and threw for 185 yards in his fourth straight start since being promoted over Alex Smith.

NFL sacks leader Aldon Smith added two to his total for 19 1/2, passing Fred Dean's franchise-best single-season mark of 17 1/2 set in 1983.

Smith also moved within three sacks of Michael Strahan's seasonal NFL record set in 2001 with the New York Giants.

Michael Crabtree had nine catches for 93 yards and rookie LaMichael James ran for 30 yards in a solid NFL debut for the 49ers (9-3-1).

PANTHERS 30, FALCONS 20 CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Cam Newton threw for 287 yards and two touchdowns and scored on a 72-yard run.

Newton piled up a career-high 116 yards on the ground as the Panthers racked up 475 total yards to avenge an early-season loss with a dominating performance against the NFC South champion Falcons. Carolina (4-9) came in with little to play for except to gain a measure of revenge on Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, whom they felt disrespected them after Atlanta's 30-28 come-from-behind win earlier this season at the Georgia Dome. Ryan threw for 342 yards and two scores and had a costly fourth-quarter interception.

The Panthers opened a 23-0 lead en route to snapping a five-game losing streak against the Falcons. □

After stunning loss, Pacquiao faces tough choices

HRVOJE HRANJSKI

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Manny Pacquiao has already achieved what most of his countrymen can only dream of: lifting himself out of wrenching poverty, securing a future for his children and becoming a figurehead for Filipinos all over the world.

Not content with just winning in the ring, Pacquiao has also set about making his mark as a politician.

Now after his stunning loss to Juan Manuel Marquez at Las Vegas on Saturday, the 34-year-old is facing some of the toughest questions in his remarkable 17-year career — does his future lay in boxing, politics, showbiz, religion, or is there a new challenge on the horizon?

“Being the king of boxing, being the highest paid athlete in boxing ... it goes with the territory,” boxing analyst Ed Tolentino said. “For Pacquiao, the fame was too much to handle. There was just too many things on his plate other than boxing.”

The distraction was costly for Pacquiao, who trained for only two months, compared to Marquez’s 4-1/2 months.

During that time the Mexican fighter bulked up and



Juan Manuel Marquez, from Mexico, right, lands a right to the head of Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, during their WBO world welterweight fight Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Las Vegas. Marquez won by a knockout.

Associated Press

became more muscular to withstand the Filipino’s trademark furious blows that were so damaging in their three earlier encounters, said boxing commentator Ronnie Nathanielsz. Pacquiao grew up a survivor and fighter in the cut throat world of poverty and competition in a country where half of the population live on \$2 a day and 3,000 leave for jobs overseas every day.

He left high school to work as a baker and a construction worker to earn money for his mother and siblings after his father left them. As a scrawny teenager, he was a stowaway on a ship that took him from his southern hometown of General Santos City to the capital, Manila, where he took up boxing while working as a laborer.

After successful, and some less successful, local bouts,

his international winning streak began in 1999 at Thailand as a 112-pound fighter. In the next decade, he became a household name by clinching eight world titles in eight weight categories. At home, he was declared a hero, “the people’s champ” — an inspiration to the legions of the poor and the man the rich and powerful wanted to rub shoulders with.

As the titles, honors and

money started pouring in, so did distractions.

Politicians, movie bit players and an assortment of hangers-on formed his huge entourage.

“You only need a Ferris wheel and his training camp would have been a circus,” Tolentino said.

In a nation where celebrities, money and politics equal a winning formula, Pacquiao played his card by running for Congress in 2007, but lost.

The most popular face in town, he turned to crooning his own songs. His picture endorsed countless products. He’s a regular on TV, and hosts his own show. He’s made a movie. His passion was cock fighting, a traditional past time in the Philippines.

He was Pacquiao Inc.

Showbiz “takes a lot of time, a lot of energy. You have to prepare for these shows. As you get older, that kind of activity takes you physically and mentally and that may take its toll,” said Nathanielsz. “(Pacquiao) loses focus because he has so many things to worry about and attend to.”

Pacquiao was elected representative from his southern Sarangani province in 2010, and has announced he will run for re-election next year. Taking a cue from his political allies, he appears to be building a political dynasty, with his wife, Jinkee, running for vice governor, and younger brother, Rogelio, for congressman in neighboring South Cotabato province. In the meantime, he promised to clean up his act: no more gambling, drinking and womanizing, and took up preaching the Bible. Some called it a public relations stunt for a budding politician, but Pacquiao insisted it was for real.

“To those who think that way, let us leave them be. I will pray for them. Even Jesus Christ, even after he performed miracles, no one believed him, what more for a sinner like me,” he said, adding he did not want to be a pastor but share how “the Lord changed my life.” □

Boxing Hall

Continued from Page 17

Inductees were selected by the Boxing Writers Association and a panel of international boxing historians. Induction ceremonies will be held June 9 at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

His relentless style made Gatti a crowd favorite.

“Arturo was a throwback-type fighter like (Jake) LaMotta or (Rocky) Graziano,” Ward said. “He could also switch it off. He could brawl if he had to, and he could box as well as anybody. He had them both.” Ward won the first junior welterweight fight against Gatti, blood streaming down his face as he captured a majority decision in

May 2002. Gatti avenged the loss in Atlantic City, New Jersey, knocking Ward down in the third with a punch that shattered one of Ward’s eardrums and sent him face-first into a stanchion. Gatti broke his right hand in the fight and won a unanimous 10-round decision.

Gatti, who moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, as a teenager, triumphed over Ward with a 10-round decision in the rubber match in June 2003, and it was another brutal slugfest. It wasn’t a title fight but had that feel as a raucous sellout crowd of 12,643 — the largest ever for a non-heavyweight fight in Atlantic City — packed Boardwalk Hall.

Gatti became a legend in New Jersey, and fans flocked to Atlantic City for



At left, in a March 14, 2007 file photo, boxer Virgil Hill laughs during a news conference in Munich. At right, in an April 12, 2006 file photo, boxer Arturo Gatti looks on during news conference New York. The late Arturo Gatti and five-time world champion Virgil Hill have been elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Both were elected Monday, Dec. 10, 2012, in their first year of eligibility.

Associated Press

years to see his fights. His bouts became an event in that seaside town, something the whole region rallied around. Gatti became

the first draw to attract more than 100,000 fans through the Boardwalk Hall turnstiles since it reopened in 2001. □



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Thunder offense too much for Pacers' D, 104-93

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 27 points, Kevin Martin added 24 and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Indiana Pacers 104-93 on Sunday night for their eighth straight win.

A meeting of the NBA's highest-scoring offense and the league's stingiest defense went the Thunder's way as they eclipsed 100 points for the 12th straight game.

Of course, Oklahoma City boasts the NBA's second-best defense to go with all that offensive firepower. Russell Westbrook added 21 points and came up with a big block against 7-foot-2 center Roy Hibbert — 11 inches taller than him — during a late 8-0 burst by the Thunder that put it away after the Pacers had pulled within three. David West had 21 points for Indiana, which had all five starters score in double figures.

KNICKS 112, NUGGETS 106 NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony returned from a two-game absence with 34 points against his former team, and New York the NBA's only team unbeaten at home.

Back in the starting lineup after missing two games with a cut on the middle finger of his left hand that required stitches, Anthony twice made baskets in the final 2:08 after Denver had pulled within four points. Jason Kidd scored 17 points for the Knicks, who bounced back from their worst offensive performance of the season a night earlier in Chicago and improved to 8-0 at Madison Square Garden. Tyson Chandler and J.R. Smith each had 15 points.

Ty Lawson had 23 points and Danilo Gallinari had 21 points and nine rebounds against the team that drafted him and later dealt him in the package for Anthony in February 2011.

JAZZ 117, LAKERS 110

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Millsap scored 24 points, Mo Williams added 22 and Utah won its third straight. Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 34 points, making 12 of 14 free throws, as they fell to 4-7 in their last 11 games. Al Jefferson and reserves Gordon Hayward and Enes Kanter added 14 points each for the Jazz, which improved to 4-9 on the road in ending a two-game skid away from home.

The Lakers never led in the second half while losing their second in a row. They trailed by three to start the fourth quarter only to get outscored 20-8 and fall behind by 15. Hayward had seven points and Kanter six in Utah's spurt.

MAGIC 98, SUNS 90

PHOENIX (AP) — Rookie Andrew Nicholson scored nine of his career-high 19 points in the fourth quarter and Orlando handed Phoenix its seventh straight loss.

Nicholson made 9 of 11 shots and grabbed nine rebounds, also the best of his young career. J.J. Redick scored 17 of his 20 points in the first half for the Magic in the final stop of their five-game road trip. Shannon Brown scored 17 and Jared Dudley 15 for the Suns, who were without starting point guard Goran Dragic due to illness. Phoenix's losing streak is its longest since 2004.

BUCKS 97, NETS 88

NEW YORK (AP) — Brandon Jennings scored 26 points, Monta Ellis had 24 points

and Milwaukee withstood Brooklyn's fourth-quarter rally.

The Bucks led by 29 points with 6:59 left in the third quarter but the Nets got within six after Deron Williams found Kris Humphries open for an uncontested dunk.

Ellis' layup then made it 87-79 before the Nets called a timeout with 2:24 left in regulation. On the ensuing play, Gerald Wallace lost his balance and the ball and Milwaukee's Larry Sanders made a reverse layup to extend the Bucks' lead to 10 points. MarShon Brooks, who scored 14 points, then hit a 3-pointer to bring the Nets within seven but Marquis Daniels' hit a 3-pointer to put the game out of reach.

Williams had 18 points and eight assists and Wallace added 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Nets.

CLIPPERS 102, RAPTORS 83

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jamal Crawford led a fourth-quarter rally by the reserves with 16 points and the Clippers won their sixth in a row and handed Toronto its 10th consecutive road loss. The backups gave the Clippers their first double-digit lead of the game after Toronto kept it close through the first three periods before dropping its fourth straight and 10th in its last 11. The Raptors have just four wins this season.

Eric Bledsoe added 14 points to help the Clippers' reserves outscore their counterparts 47-24. Blake Griffin led the Clippers with 19 points. Chris Paul added 16 points and DeAndre Jordan had 10 rebounds. Caron Butler was the only starter to play in the fourth, coming in only after Matt Barnes was



Brooklyn Nets' Reggie Evans, left, steals the ball from Milwaukee Bucks' Marquis Daniels, center, as Nets' Deron Williams helps during the first half of an NBA basketball game at Barclays Center, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, in New York.

Associated Press

ejected with 1:36 to play. Toronto's DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points in his hometown. Linas Kleiza, who started in place of injured Mickael Pietrus, added 17 points, including five 3-pointers. Amir Johnson had 11 points and 12 re-

bounds for Toronto. In other NBA games it was L.A. Clippers 102, Toronto 83; Milwaukee 97, Brooklyn 88; Oklahoma City 104, Indiana 93; New York 112, Denver 106; Orlando 98, Phoenix 90; Utah 117, L.A. Lakers 110. □

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The quest to eliminate diagnostic lapses

KATIE HAFNER

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SAN FRANCISCO – The man on stage had his audience of 600 mesmerized. Over the course of 45 minutes, the tension grew. Finally, the moment of truth arrived, and the room was silent with anticipation.

At last he spoke. "Lymphoma with secondary hemophagocytic syndrome," he said. The crowd erupted in applause.

Professionals in every field revere their superstars, and in medicine the best diagnosticians are held in particularly high esteem. Dr. Gurpreet Dhaliwal, 39, a self-effacing associate professor clinical medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, is considered one of the most skillful clinical diagnosticians in practice.

The case Dhaliwal was presented, at a medical conference last year, began with information that could have described hundreds of diseases: The patient had intermittent fevers, joint pain, and weight and appetite loss.

To observe him at work is like watching Steven Spielberg tackle a script or Rory McIlroy a golf course. He was given new information bit by bit – lab, imaging and biopsy results. Over the course of the session, he drew on an encyclopedic familiarity with thousands of syndromes. He deftly dismissed red herrings while picking up on clues that

others might ignore, gradually homing in on the accurate diagnosis.

Just how special is Dhaliwal's talent? More to the point, what can he do that a computer cannot? Will a computer ever successfully stand in for a skill that is based not simply on a vast

a program that provides a ranked list of clinical diagnoses from a set of symptoms and laboratory data. And IBM, on the heels of its triumph last year with Watson, the Jeopardy-playing computer, is working on Watson for Healthcare.

In some ways, Dhaliwal's



Dr. Gurpreet Dhaliwal, an associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, who is considered one of the most skillful clinical diagnosticians in practice today, listens to patient Peter Wert breath at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. Computer programs offer a backup for doctors facing tricky symptoms, but they are still far from replacing a skilled diagnostician. (Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

fund of knowledge but also on more intangible factors like intuition?

The history of computer-assisted diagnostics is long and rich. In the 1970s, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh developed software to diagnose complex problems in general internal medicine; the project eventually resulted in a commercial program called Quick Medical Reference. Since the 1980s, Massachusetts General Hospital has been developing and refining DXplain,

diagnostic method is similar to that of another IBM project: the Deep Blue chess program, which in 1996 trounced Garry Kasparov, the world's best player at the time, to claim an unambiguous victory in the computer's relentless march into the human domain.

Although lacking consciousness and a human's intuition, Deep Blue had millions of moves memorized and could analyze as many each second. Dhaliwal does the diagnostic equivalent, though at hu-

man speed. Since medical school, he has been an insatiable reader of case reports in medical journals, and case conferences from other hospitals. At work he occasionally uses a diagnostic checklist program called Isabel, just to make certain he hasn't forgotten something. But the program has yet to offer a diagnosis that Dhaliwal missed. Dhaliwal regularly receives cases from physicians who are stumped by a set of symptoms. At medical conferences, he is presented with one vexingly difficult case and is given 45 minutes to solve it. It is a medical high-wire act; doctors in the audience squirm as the set of facts gets more obscure and all the diagnoses they were considering are ruled out. After absorbing and processing scores of details, Dhaliwal must commit to a diagnosis. More often than not, he is right. When working on a difficult case in front of an audience, Dhaliwal puts his entire thought process on display, with the goal of "elevating the stature of thinking," he said. He believes this is becoming more important because physicians are being assessed on whether they gave the right medicine to a patient, or remembered to order a certain test. Without such emphasis, physicians and training programs might forget the importance of having smart, thoughtful doctors. □

CDC: early start to the flu season

Shelia Poole

© 2012 Cox Newspapers

ATLANTA -- The flu is arriving early this year, like an unwanted guest popping in for the holiday. And it figures to make you just about as miserable.

Some physicians are reporting a big jump in sick patients. "We're significantly busier than last November and December," said Dr. Jeff Hopkins of Northside Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, which has offices in metro Atlanta. Hopkins estimates his patient load has risen between 15 percent and 20 percent over the same time a year ago. "We're most concerned with the youngest babies and those with special health needs like diabetes, severe asthma and cerebral palsy," he said.

He recommends people get vaccinated. "We're big proponents of prevention, especially in households with babies under six months, who can't get the vaccine." While Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas are seeing the most activity, the level of influenza activity in Georgia is picking up, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last year's flu season got off to a late start and was relatively mild. Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe, said Tom Skinner, a CDC spokesman. "Each flu season is unique in and of itself. There's really no explanation as to why the flu may start early one year and late the next." Skinner said this is the earliest he seen such levels of influenza activity at this point in the year in about a decade. He said 2009 was an exception because there was a pandemic of H1N1 -- called swine flu by some. The flu season typically peaks in January. Skinner said it's difficult to project whether this will be a severe season. "We have to wait and see as we go along," he said. □

Lawmaker: FTC must probe energy drink ads

BARRY MEIER

© 2012 New York Times

A Democratic lawmaker has recently urged the Federal Trade Commission to investigate advertising claims made by producers of highly caffeinated energy drinks.

In a letter, Rep. Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, told the FTC that he found claims made by the sellers of products like 5-Hour Energy, Monster Energy, Red Bull and Rockstar Energy particularly disturbing because they were often made to appeal to young-



er people. In marketing promotions and advertisements, producers of energy drinks typically claim that the products can make users more alert, energized

and less fatigued. The request by Markey follows disclosures that the Food and Drug Administration received reports of 18 deaths in recent years in which energy drinks may have played a role; producers deny any link. "The advertising claims made by energy drink manufacturers are particularly alarming in light of the increase in advertisements targeted primarily to children and teenagers," Markey wrote. A spokeswoman for the FTC, Betsy Lordan, said the agency would consider Markey's

request. She declined to say whether the FTC was already examining energy drink promotions. Energy drink makers have said that the claims they have made for their products are supported. They have added that they do not market the beverages to children, a group defined by the industry as those younger than 12. Public officials are looking into the marketing claims of energy drink manufacturers, including the attorney general of New York state and the top lawyer for San Francisco. □

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Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivers a speech during the inauguration of Google's Campus TLV a technology hub for Israeli start-ups, entrepreneurs and developers at Google's new offices in Tel Aviv, Israel, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. Associated Press

Google teaming with Israeli high-tech startups

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Google is searching for promising Israeli high-tech companies.

The international technology giant on Monday launched its "Campus Tel Aviv," a 1,500 square foot (140 square meter) space that will hold regular events for local entrepreneurs and offer access to Google staff and other industry experts. The facility will also host "Launchpad," a selective, free two-week boot camp for early stage startups. It plans to help 100 promising

Israeli startups there each year.

Google calls the facility an "innovation hub" for Israel's many startups.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended Monday's launch and praised Israel as the "startup nation," the world's second largest center of tech startups after Silicon Valley.

"The world is flying fast," he said, "and we're leading the way."

Google started its first Launchpad last year in London. □

Report: Kodak gets patent bid from Apple, Google

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple and Google, bitter rivals in smartphone technology, have joined up to make a combined bid for a bundle of patents offered by photography pioneer Kodak, according to a published report.

Bloomberg News reported Saturday that Apple Inc. and Google Inc. have abandoned competing bids for the portfolio to offer a combined \$500 million. The sum is the minimum Ko-

dak can sell the patents for and still get an \$830 million loan that's crucial to getting the company out of bankruptcy.

Apple and Google declined to comment on the report. A Kodak representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Kodak filed for bankruptcy protection in January after struggling to adapt to the world of digital photography. □

NBC Sports partners with Yahoo for content deal

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC Sports Group and Yahoo announced a content and promotional deal that combines the website's sports reporting, college recruitment content and fantasy sports material with its partner's digital assets and television access.

Yahoo Sports and the NBC Sports Group said Sunday they will maintain separate websites and newsrooms, but will work together on news and events coverage online and on the air.

"The complementary nature of this partnership is unmatched in digital sports media," said Mark Lazarus, chairman of the NBC Sports Group. "Through our growing television and digital platforms, the Yahoo Sports partnership dramatically expands the digital reach of NBC Sports around the biggest sporting events. We are committed to continually growing this alliance for the benefit of both parties, our sports-property partners, and, most importantly, sports fans."

The agreement gives NBC Sports access to Yahoo Sports' top reporters and extensive fantasy sports offerings, while the website raises its profile as it vies with ESPN.com and other locations for online sports supremacy.

Here are some of the key features of the deal:

—Yahoo Sports will link to and promote NBC Sports Live Extra video player, giving fans access to live streams of the network's NFL game on Sunday night and the NHL game of the week, when the league resolves its labor dispute.

—Yahoo's fantasy sports



platform will become the exclusive partner of NBC Sports' Rotoworld, a fantasy sports news and information site.

—Yahoo Sports and the NBC Sports Group will develop online video programs that will appear on both websites and include notable names such as NBC broadcaster Bob Costas and former NFL coach Tony Dungy.

—Rivals.com, which focuses on college recruiting, will play a key role in coverage of college sports for NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports Regional Networks. Ken Fuchs, vice president

of Yahoo Global Media and head of Yahoo Sports and Games, thinks fans are going to love the agreement.

"Passionate fans need news and analysis about their favorite teams in real time, and they want access to that information no matter where they are," he said in a release.

"We're thrilled to combine Yahoo!'s fantasy offerings, product innovation and editorial authority with NBC's broadcast coverage of live sports events and award-winning on-air talent. We think our users will love the result." □

Stocks edge higher; Dow boosted by McDonald's

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged higher Monday on Wall Street after a strong sales report from McDonald's offset concerns about the surprise resignation announcement of Italy's prime minister.

Investors also waited for developments in crucial U.S. budget talks.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 14.75 points, or 0.1 percent, to 13,169.88. The index traded within a narrow range of just 56 points throughout the day. The Standard and Poor's 500 finished 0.48 point higher at 1,418.55. The Nasdaq composite ended up 8.92 points at 2,986.96.

McDonald's rose 93 cents to \$89.41. A key sales figure rose in November as U.S. customers bought more breakfast offerings and limited-time Cheddar Bacon Onion sandwiches.

Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Palm Beach, Florida-based Banyan Partners, said the company's strength was encouraging. McDonald's, one of the 30 stocks in the Dow, was trading as high as \$100 at

the beginning of 2012.

The pickup in McDonald's sales, he said, gave investors something positive to focus on as Italy's sudden political turmoil sent a jolt through European markets. Hewlett-Packard rose 36 cents to \$14.16 and also helped push the Dow higher. The company's stock has been battered the past two months following a weak earnings forecast and a public spat with the founder of Autonomy, a company it acquired for \$10 billion last year.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, who has been credited with restoring confidence in the nation's economy, announced that he would step down by year's end after former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's party dropped its support for his government.

Italian government bond yields, a critical measure of how much the country has to pay to borrow, jumped. Concern that the European debt crisis was enveloping Italy, one of the euro region's largest economies, helped stymie markets around the world earlier in the year.

Investors were also following developments in budget talks in Washington. Tax increases and federal spending cuts start Jan. 1 unless a deal is reached to reduce the U.S. budget deficit. Economists say the mea-

and House Speaker John Boehner met at the White House on Sunday while rank-and-file Republicans stepped forward with what they called pragmatic ideas to break the stalemate.



Trader Peter Tuchman works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. Stocks edged higher Monday on Wall Street after a strong sales report from McDonald's offset concerns about the surprise resignation announcement of Italy's prime minister.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

asures, if implemented, could eventually push the economy back into recession.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell 1 basis point to 1.62 percent.

President Barack Obama

The Obama-Boehner meeting was the first between just the two leaders since Election Day.

"There's a pretty good belief that the 'fiscal cliff' can be avoided," said

Craig Johnson, a technical market strategist at Piper Jaffray. "Anytime somebody is talking, it's a good thing."

Other stocks making big moves:

— Priceline.com fell \$33.14, or 5 percent, to \$625.96 after Deutsche Bank cut its recommendation on the stock to "hold" from "buy" and lowered its price target to \$710 from \$800.

— Phillips 66, the refining and pipeline company, gained \$1.24, or 2.4 percent, to \$53.58 after saying late Friday that it was raising its quarterly dividend to 31.25 cents per share from 25 cents. The company also said it had approved the repurchase of another \$1 billion in company stock, after approving the repurchase of \$1 billion during the first quarter.

— Intermec, a maker of barcode printers and radio frequency identification products, jumped \$1.85, or 23.2 percent, to \$9.83 after it agreed to be acquired by Honeywell for about \$603.4 million in cash.

— AIG fell 74 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$33.36 after the insurer said late Friday that it will take \$1.3 billion in losses related to Superstorm Sandy, more than other major insurance companies have reported so far. UBS said in a client note that AIG's Sandy-related losses were above his estimate and cut his price target to \$35 from \$36.

Japan in recession after 2Q growth revised down

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's economy is technically in recession after authorities said revised figures for the April-June quarter showed the economy shrank for two straight quarters. The Cabi-

net Office said Monday that gross domestic product for the July-September quarter shrank 0.9 percent from the previous quarter, unchanged from the preliminary release. Going back

to the April-June quarter, however, GDP was revised to a 0.03 percent decline from the previous quarter, or a 0.1 percent contraction at an annualized pace. Previously, the Cabinet had

said second quarter GDP grew 0.1 percent from the previous quarter. A widely accepted definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of economic contraction. □

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McDonald's says key sales figure rebounds

MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's Corp. said Monday that a key sales figure rebounded in November, as U.S. customers snapped up the world's biggest hamburger chain's breakfast offerings and limited-time Cheddar Bacon Onion sandwiches.

The increase follows a decline in October, the first drop in McDonald's key monthly sales gauge in nearly a decade.

The company, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, said that its global sales at restaurants open at least 13 months rose 2.4 percent for the month ended Nov. 30. The figure is a key metric because it strips out the impact of newly opened and closed locations.

The figure rose 2.5 percent in the U.S., boosted by popularity of breakfast options, its value menu and limited-time Cheddar Bacon Onion sandwiches.

It rose 1.4 percent in Europe, where it gets 40

percent of its business, as strength in the U.K., Russia and other markets were offset by weakness in Germany. In the region encompassing Asia, the Middle East and Africa, it edged up 0.6 percent, hurt

creasing focus on its dollar menu, said Jefferies analyst Andy Barrish, as well as new products like its Cheddar Bacon Onion sandwiches and \$4.99 20-piece Extra Value McNuggets. But he said the increased price

After years of outperforming its rivals, McDonald's has seen sales growth slow as the company faces intensifying competition and an uncertain global economy. Its global revenue at restaurants open at least 13 months fell 1.8 percent in October. The last time it had dropped was in March 2003. McDonald's has responded by renovating some stores and expanding its value menu and adding other food items to its menu. Its longtime rivals such as Burger King and Wendy's Co. are reviving their brands with improved menus and new TV ad campaigns. Taco Bell, owned by Yum Brands Inc., is also seeing improved growth sparked by new offerings such as its Doritos Locos Tacos and higher-end Cantina Bell bowls and burritos. Meanwhile, people are increasingly flocking to restaurants such as Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. and Panera Bread Co., which offer better-quality food for a little more money. □



Featured is a McDonald's restaurant. McDonald's Corp. said Monday that a key sales figure rebounded in November, following a decline in October, the first drop in McDonald's key monthly sales gauge in nearly a decade.

(Handout Photo)

by results in Japan. System-wide sales, which includes sales at all restaurants, rose 3.2 percent. Results benefited from McDonald's in-

competition within the sector may pressure margins, since cheaper items are less profitable. He kept his "Hold" rating on the stock.

GM's Opel to end car production at German plant

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — General Motors Co.'s Opel unit said Monday that it plans to end car production at one plant in Germany in 2016, but a slimmed-down factory may continue to make components. Employees at the Bochum plant in northwestern Germany, one of four in the country, were told that vehicle production will end when the company stops making the current Zafira model. That was widely expected after the company announced a turnaround plan in June, and "despite intensive efforts this situation could not be changed," Opel said.

Opel, like several other mass-market car manufacturers on the continent, has been struggling amid economic gloom in Europe and overcapacity in the auto industry. The turnaround plan envisions cost cuts, new models and efforts to win new export sales. The Adam Opel GmbH unit is

based in Germany, where the automaker has more than 20,000 employees — a bit more than half the total European workforce of Opel and sister brand Vauxhall. About 3,000 peo-

ends. GM's warehouse in Bochum will continue operating after 2016 and may be expanded, Opel said. It also is negotiating with employee representatives to move component produc-



Opel employees queue for a staff meeting in Bochum, Germany, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. The poster reads: 'Future for all at Opel Bochum' with sign hanging under reading "And You?". Opel announced plans today to stop car production in Bochum in 2016. But Opel says the company's warehouse in Bochum will continue to employ people after 2016 and may be expanded. The company also is negotiating with employee representatives to produce components at the site.

(AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

ple work at the Bochum plant, and it wasn't clear how many jobs might remain after car production

tion to the site. Opel "will implement still-necessary job reductions in the most socially responsible way,"

Steve Girsky, chairman of Opel's board of directors and vice chairman of GM, said in a statement. He added that the company hoped to avoid forced layoffs. Opel's future has long been politically sensitive in Germany. In 2009, GM scrapped a plan — favored by Berlin — to sell a majority stake to a consortium led by Canadian auto parts maker Magna International Inc. and decided to restructure the brands itself instead. Chancellor Angela Merkel "greatly regrets" Opel's decision to end production in Bochum, spokesman Georg Streiter said. "The workforce's anger is understandable because there have been some decisions by GM in the past that certainly weren't helpful. For example, the lack of access to certain markets but also the treatment of employees, which has been anything but exemplary," Economy Ministry spokesman Holger Schlienkamp said. □

Amgen buying deCODE Genetics for \$415 million

LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Business Writer
TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)

— Biotech pioneer Amgen Inc., in a bid for a big edge in using people's genetic information to find better ways to attack diseases, is buying human genetics research and analytics leader deCODE Genetics for \$415 million.

Amgen, the world's largest biotech company by revenue, and deCODE, based in Reykjavik, Iceland, announced the all-cash deal Monday.

DeCODE, founded in 1996, has discovered genetic risk factors for dozens of diseases, ranging from cardiovascular disease to cancer.

Probably its key asset — and the reason for the deal — is deCODE's huge database of the genetic and medical information of Iceland's population.

That data can help researchers find links between genetic variations and characteristics that increase a person's risk of getting a particular disease and also affect patients' response to a drug.

"DeCODE Genetics has built a world-class capability in the study of the genetics of human disease. This capability will enhance our efforts to identify and validate human disease targets," Amgen CEO Robert Bradway said in a statement.

"This fits perfectly with our objective to pursue rapid development of relevant molecules that reach the right disease targets while avoiding investments in programs based on less well-validated targets," Bradway added.

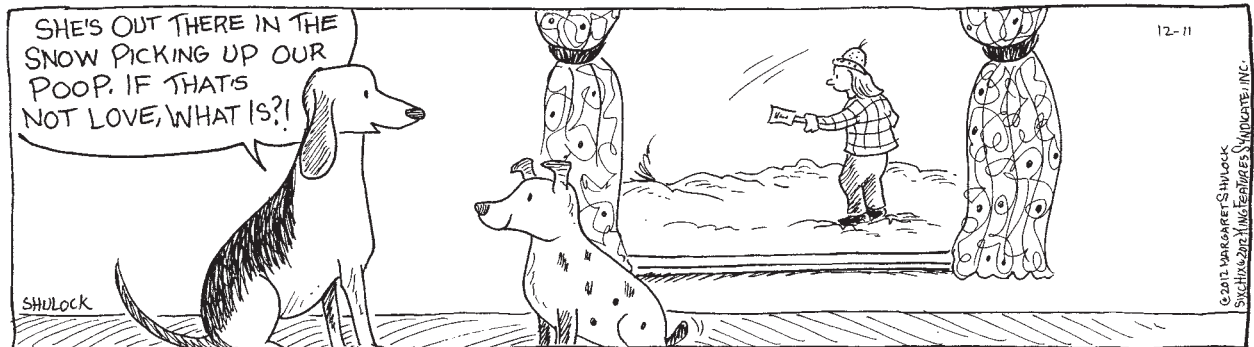
That's important because the vast majority of experimental drugs, after years of expensive testing, eventually turn out not to work well or to have dangerous side effects.

Drugmakers worldwide are trying to find ways to make their drug-development process more efficient to avoid spending tens of millions of dollars testing drugs that end up failing. □

Mutts



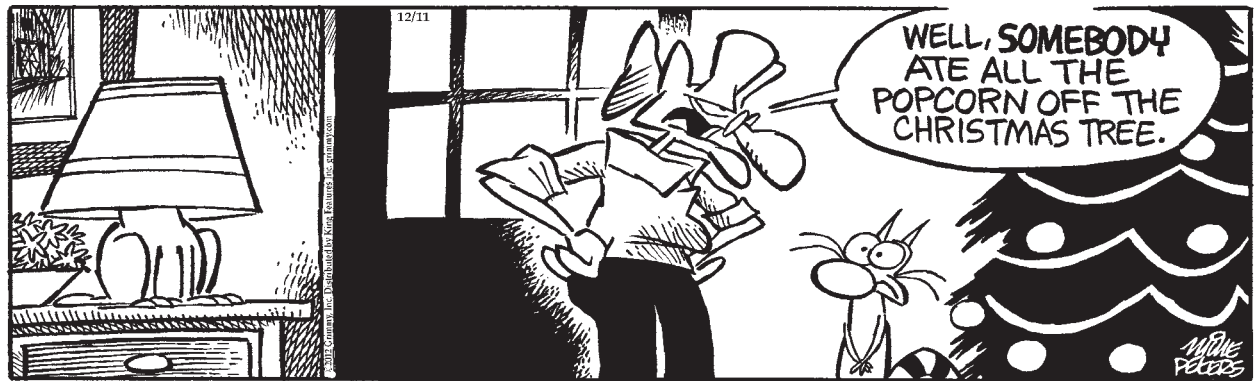
6 Chix



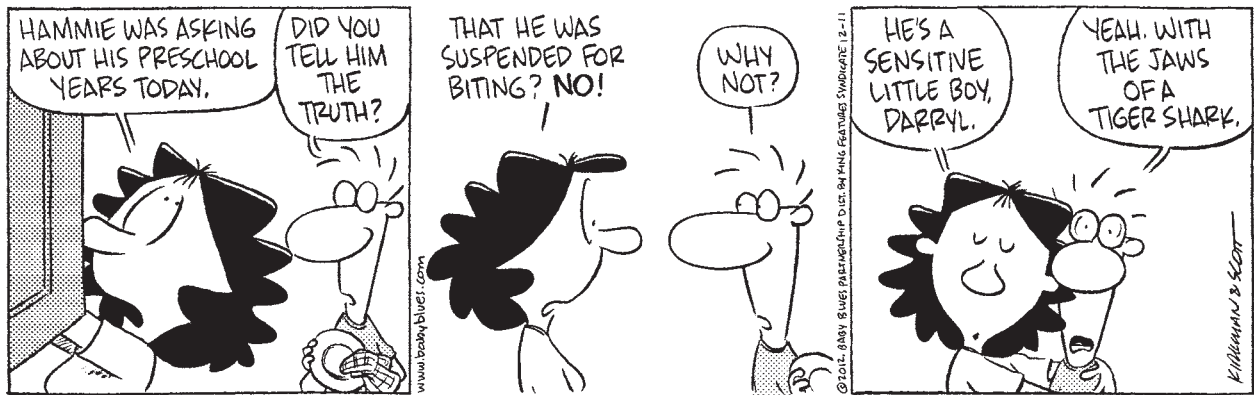
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3					2	
	4		9					1
5		1			2	9		
	9			5		2		
		8		2			3	
		5	7			3		2
7					4		9	
	1					7		

Difficulty Level ★★

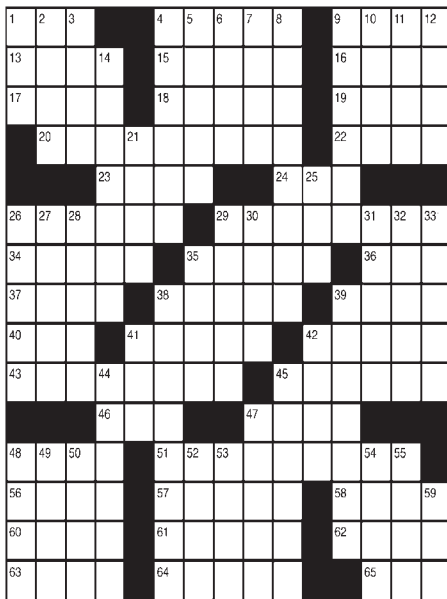
12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	8	3	7	2	4	1	6	5
5	7	6	8	9	1	2	3	4
4	2	1	5	6	3	7	9	8
1	5	9	2	8	6	4	7	3
6	3	8	9	4	7	5	1	2
7	4	2	1	3	5	9	8	6
3	1	7	4	5	8	6	2	9
8	9	5	6	1	2	3	4	7
2	6	4	3	7	9	8	5	1

ACROSS

- 1 Respiratory ailment
- 4 Poplar with fluttering leaves
- 9 Get ready, for short
- 13 Lubricates
- 15 Piece of grass
- 16 Ceremony
- 17 Autry or Kelly
- 18 Queues
- 19 Fragrance
- 20 Baptism or matrimony, e.g.
- 22 List of dishes
- 23 Demolish; level
- 24 Drink like a dog
- 26 Per person
- 29 Machines connected to computers
- 34 Duke or Hearst
- 35 Jeer at
- 36 Cut off
- 37 Gorillas
- 38 Sure __; shoo-in
- 39 Luau dance
- 40 Rotating engine part
- 41 __ cats and dogs; pours
- 42 West Point pupil
- 43 Many a writer of prose works
- 45 Hug
- 46 Actor __ Ferrer
- 47 On __; readily available
- 48 Explosive
- 51 Like flimsy walls
- 56 Wickedness
- 57 Crazy
- 58 Lie next to
- 60 __ apart; disassemble
- 61 Explorer __ de León
- 62 Popular detergent
- 63 Winter vehicle
- 64 Go into
- 65 Caribbean or Mediterranean



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/11/12

Monday's Puzzle Solved

CATER	IRAN	PAPA
OPINE	GONE	AGES
DELTA	LAYS	LEAP
EXTERIOR	THENCE	
RENO	FLATTEN	
DOESNT	ELECT	
ODD	DEBRA	KEATS
NONE	ROOMS	SWAP
GRASP	IDEAL	AKA
CHASE	LAWYER	
ASTAIRE	VANE	
SPARSE	REDDENED	
SING	TREE	EVADE
ERGO	HEAR	RISEN
SOOT	ADDS	SLANT

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- 33 Quarrels
- 35 __ and that
- 38 Car exhaust
- 39 Construction worker's helmet
- 41 Bread variety
- 42 Isn't able to
- 44 Strolled
- 45 Occupation
- 47 Therefore
- 48 Wagers
- 49 Egg's shape
- 50 Voice tool
- 52 Shortly
- 53 Breathe heavily
- 54 Wading bird
- 55 Unclothed
- 59 Soothing drink

Better watch out: SantaCon is coming to town

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) —

It's a meetup, it's a party, it's a spectacle: SantaCon is coming to town — in fact, to nearly 300 towns and cities around the world. Maybe you've seen them in your neighborhood: Dozens, sometimes hundreds of Santas ho, ho, ho-ing in and out of bars, stopping traffic and posing for photos. The red-suited, white-bearded revelers have gathered in Trafalgar Square in London and Tiananmen Square in Beijing. They've walked across the Brooklyn Bridge. And this past weekend in Los Angeles, they visited the space shuttle en masse at the California Science Center.

"It's innocent fun," said Tim Mambort, 27, who's been taking part in SantaCon in New York City for five years with friends from college. "You end up standing in a bar singing 'Jingle Bells' with people you just met, all dressed like Santa, or walking with hundreds of Santas to Central Park, or filling up an entire subway car with Santas."

But whether SantaCon is naughty or nice depends on whom you ask.

The website for the New York City event, planned for Dec. 15, says SantaCon "is not a bar crawl. Every time you call it that, a sug-arplum fairy dies."

But the fact is, most SantaCons involve stops at bars along a prescribed route, and over the years, there have been isolated reports of misbehavior. In New York, police have issued summonses for violations of open container laws, and some bars refuse entry to anyone dressed in red. Last year, residents of Lower Manhattan complained of drunken Santas vomiting and urinating in the streets.

"There was one Santa lying on the ground and I saw a father go by with two young children and the little girl said, 'Daddy, what is wrong with Santa?'" said Community Board 1 member Paul Hovitz, who worries that the event encourages binge drinking and under-age drinking.



This product image released by Party City shows an adult sassy Santa costume. SantaCon is coming to town — in fact, to nearly 300 towns and cities around the world. (AP Photo/Party City)

Ian Sibley, who organizes the SantaCon.info webpage, acknowledges that "a dark shadow seems to haunt the event. So we take the extra step of emphasizing not drinking too much and perhaps supporting a good cause."

Indeed, many SantaCons require participants to bring donations for food banks or Toys for Tots, or raise money for children's charities or no-kill pet shelters.

Sibley started SantaCon.info five years ago with a half-dozen listings after "encountering this crazy thing with all these people dressed up like Santa" in Asheville, N.C. The website now lists nearly 275 events in 37 countries between November and January. Sibley says SantaCons have been held on every continent — from Uganda to Katmandu to Sydney and even Antarctica — but he dates the first events to the 1990s in Copenhagen and San Francisco. He says New York is one of the biggest, drawing 20,000 Santas.

Anna Sandler, a mom from Maplewood, N.J., thinks

most participants take seriously the notion that SantaCon must not hurt Santa's image. Two years ago while pushing her toddler in a stroller in Manhattan, Sandler encountered "tons of Santas crossing the street and had no idea why. It was the most amazing spectacle." She stopped a few Santas to chat, then went home and looked the event up online.

"The Santas were completely hammered, but also completely polite," she said. "They were definitely following the SantaCon creed of being super-respectful." Like zombie walks at Halloween, SantaCon is a grassroots phenomenon, organized locally and mostly through digital media, from email blasts and websites to Twitter and FourSquare. □

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11314

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11311

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Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers



Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

Information	118
Setar	582-5151
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Profesional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
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Mick Jagger, from left, Keith Richards and Charlie Watts of The Rolling Stones perform in concert on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012 in New York. Associated Press

Springsteen, Lady Gaga join Stones concert in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen, Lady Gaga and The Black Keys will join the Rolling Stones on Saturday for the final concert marking the band's 50th anniversary. The band made the announcement Monday about the concert in

New Jersey. The Stones have played in London and New York on their "50 and Counting" tour. The band will perform Wednesday at the "12-12-12" concert in New York City to raise money for victims of Superstorm Sandy. □

Alicia Keys: I want to cut my hair even shorter



In this Monday, Nov. 26, 2012 photo, American singer-songwriter, record producer and actress, Alicia Keys poses for a portrait in promotion of her fifth album "Girl on Fire," in New York. Associated Press

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alicia Keys recently cut off most of her hair, and the singer is looking to go even shorter. The R&B superstar debuted her bob hairdo this year. When asked in a recent interview if she would shave her head, the 31-year-old replied: "I'm thinking about something like that. I'm

telling you. I'm going there. I'm doing it." The Grammy-winning Keys arrived on the music scene in 2001 with braids, and she has mostly worn her hair long. She says with her new cut, she's able to do more with her hair. If she shaves her head, she'll follow a list of celebrities including Natalie Portman, India Arie, Chrisette Michelle and Kellie Pickler. □



In this Sept. 24, 2012 file photo, Ariel Winter attends the World Premiere of "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns Part 1" at The Paley Center for Media, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

Ariel Winter's mom sues actor for defamation

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The mother of "Modern Family" actress Ariel Winter sued an associate of her adult daughter for defamation Monday, claiming he falsely labeled her an "abusive monster" in an online comment about an ongoing custody struggle for the teenage star. Chrisoula Workman filed the defamation lawsuit against Matthew Borlenghi, claiming his comment attached to a Nov. 9 Los Angeles Times online story was false and has harmed her reputation.

Borlenghi is an actor who teaches at a studio operated by Shanelle Gray, Winter's adult sister who currently has custody of the 14-year-old actress. A judge temporarily stripped Workman of custody amid allegations she had been physically and emotionally abusive to the star. A trial on whether Workman will be completely lose custody is scheduled to begin Wednesday. Borlenghi said he had not yet seen the lawsuit and declined to say whether

he posted a comment about the story on the Times website. The story centered on Workman's allegations that Winter was having an improper relationship with an 18-year-old actor.

"This is a total falsehood," the comment attributed to Borlenghi states. "The mother is grasping and clawing to find a way not to lose her money-maker, and hide the fact that she is an abusive monster."

The comment cites personal interactions with Workman for forming the opinions in the post.

"All I can say is that David (Gray) and Shanelle Gray are very close friends of mine and comments that Chris has made are absolutely fabricated," Borlenghi said when contacted about the case. "The negative comments she's made about her own daughter in order to try to get custody back of Ariel are truly disgusting."

Workman's lawsuit includes several pages of sworn declarations from tutors and other friends and associates denying she has been abusive to her daughter. The decla-

rations have been filed in the guardianship case and may be considered by a judge who has to determine whether to allow Gray to continue caring for her sister.

A judge said last month that child protective investigators had evidence of emotional abuse toward Winter. Workman has denied she has been abusive toward her daughter.

Guardianship cases in California are public record. Attorneys for Winter's sister requested the case and its proceedings be sealed, but a judge refused. The case was filed under Winter's birth name, Ariel Workman, in part to avoid attention. Although The Associated Press does not generally name underage victims of abuse, Winter's name is being used because it is included in the public guardianship case.

Besides playing Alex Dunphy on ABC's "Modern Family," Winter's credits include appearances on several TV series, including "ER" and "Phineas and Ferb," and movies such as "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang," "Ice Age: The Meltdown" and "ParaNorman." □

'Amour' takes top prize from LA film critics



This undated file film image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Jean-Louis Trintignant in a scene from the Austrian film, "Amour." Associated Press

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The French-language drama "Amour" was chosen Sunday as the year's best film by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, whose prizes are among a flurry of year-end honors that help sort out the Academy Awards race. Among the group's other honors, the 1950s cult drama "The Master" earned four awards: best director for Paul Thomas Anderson, best actor for Joaquin Phoenix, supporting actress for Amy Adams and production design for David Crank and Jack Fisk. "The Master" also was chosen as best-picture runner-up. The film stars Phoenix as a volatile World War II veteran who comes under the sway of a charismatic cult leader. Adams co-stars as the cult leader's tough-minded wife. "Amour" star Emmanuelle Riva, who plays an elderly, ailing woman being cared for by her husband, shared the best-actress honor in a tie with Jennifer Lawrence of the lost-soul romance "Silver Linings Playbook." Newcomer Dwight Henry was chosen as supporting actor for the low-budget critical darling "Beasts of the Southern Wild." The film's writer-director, Benh Zeitlin, received the group's New Generation Award and shared the prize for best music score with composing partner Dan Romer. Directed by Michael Haneke, "Amour" is Austria's entry for the foreign-language Oscar and

won the top honor at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The choice by the Los Angeles critics marked a move away from bigger Hollywood productions that the group favored the last two years when it named George Clooney's "The Descendants" as the best film of 2011 and David Fincher's "The Social Network" as tops for 2010. The critics' picks came days after both the New York Film Critics Circle and the National Board of Review chose Kathryn Bigelow's Osama bin Laden manhunt docudrama "Zero Dark Thirty" as the year's best film. Bigelow, who dominated the 2009 LA critics awards with best-picture and director wins for "The Hurt Locker," was chosen this time as directing runner-up for "Zero Dark Thirty." "The Hurt Locker" went on to a best-picture win at the Oscars and made Bigelow the first woman ever to earn the best-director Oscar. Bigelow is considered a potential Oscar favorite again this time around with "Zero Dark Thirty." Shut out at the Los Angeles critics honors was Steven Spielberg's Civil War epic "Lincoln." Runners-up for the acting honors: Denis Levant of "Holy Motors," best actor; Christoph Waltz of "Django Unchained," supporting actor; and Anne Hathaway of "Les Misérables" and "The Dark Knight Rises," supporting actress. The French film "Holy Motors" also was named best foreign-language film, with Israel's "Footnote" named runner-up. □



In this picture taken March 8, 2012, Mexican-American singer and reality TV star Jenni Rivera poses during an interview in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Jenni Rivera, soulful, troubled Mexican music star

E.J. TAMARA
NATALIA CANO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jenni Rivera launched her career hawking cassette recordings of her songs at flea markets, but a powerful voice, soulful singing style and frank discussion of personal troubles powered her to the heights of a male-dominated industry, transforming her into the one of the biggest stars of the genre known as grupero. Her life was cut short at its peak on Sunday by an airplane crash in northern Mexico that also killed six friends and co-workers. The 43-year-old mother of five and grandmother of two became a symbol of resilience for millions of fans on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border. Her fame grew as she branched out into acting, appearing in independent film, reality TV and the televised singing competition "La Voz Mexico." She had recently filed for divorce from her third husband, was once detained at a Mexico City airport with tens of thousands of dollars in cash, and publicly apologized after her brother assaulted a drunken fan who verbally attacked her in 2011. "I am the same as the public, as my fans," she told The Associated Press in an inter-

view last March.

Rivera sold more than 15 million copies of her 12 major-label albums and won a string of Latin music awards. Her shows filled both the Staples Center in Los Angeles and Mexico's National Auditorium, a feat few male singers in her industry achieved. Many of her songs dealt with themes of dignity in the face of heartbreak, and her shows were known for their festive atmosphere and her intimate interactions with her fans. She would fill song requests from fans who had suffered heartbreak and setbacks, and would often pull women and girls onto stage to personally tell them to keep moving forward. The plane, being flown by two pilots, was taking her and her publicist, Arturo Rivera, her makeup artist, Jacob Yebale, and two friends, one named Mario Macias and another who was also identified as Gerardo, to the central Mexican city of Toluca after a Saturday night concert before thousands in the northern city of Monterrey. All were killed. After the concert she gave a press conference during which she spoke of her emotional state following her recent move to divorce former Major League

Baseball pitcher Esteban Loaiza, who played for teams including the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers. Rivera announced in October that she was divorcing Loaiza after two years of marriage. "I can't get caught up in the negative because that destroys you. Perhaps trying to move away from my problems and focus on the positive is the best I can do. I am a woman like any other and ugly things happen to me like any other woman," she said Saturday night. "The number of times I have fallen down is the number of times I have gotten up." Rivera's parents migrated from Mexico to California and founded the label that also propelled two of her five brothers, Lupillo and Juan Rivera, to careers as well-known singers of grupero music. Born on July 2, 1969 in Los Angeles, California, Dolores Janney Rivera Savedra studied business administration and often said with pride that she started her singing career in flea markets in the Los Angeles area, selling cassette tapes to fans. She formally debuted on the music scene in 1995 with the release of her album "Chacalosa". □

Twenty And Counting



GAIL COLLINS

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You may have heard that there are going to be 20 women in the Senate next year. I've been trying to figure out what that means.

Well, it means one-fifth. Whoop-di-do.

Still, up to now there have only been 39 women senators in all of American history. In 2001, the entire female caucus published a book about their experiences called "Nine and Counting."

So I say, look on the bright side. In the House, 78 women were just elected. True, that's still under 20 percent. Nevertheless, when it comes to the proportion of women in the lower chamber of its national legislature, next year the United States is almost certainly going to soar past the United Arab Emirates and possibly even Indonesia.

Feel free to blame the Republicans. After the elections, the House minority leader, Nancy Pelosi, pointed out that next session most of the Democratic members will be something other than white men. The Democrats named Rep. Nita Lowey of New York the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, the chamber's historic Alpha Dog Central. Meanwhile, over on the Republican side, Speaker John Boehner announced a list of new committee chairs that was entirely, um, pale male. After the ensuing outcry, he stuck Rep. Candice Miller of Michigan in a vacant top post on the House Administration Committee, a panel she had never served on.

"In her new post, Candice will provide the leadership needed to keep operating costs down, save taxpayer dollars, and help lawmakers use new technology to better engage with their constituents," said Boehner.

Having any committee chairmanship is better than not having one. But I believe I speak on behalf of many American women when I say: oh good grief.

But let's cheerfully return to the fact that there are going to be more women in Congress. What does it mean? These days, the answers are mainly about interpersonal relations than any particular issue. "It's not that they're going to agree on everything," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers. "I think in some ways, it will be about: Will they talk to each

other and work with each other on some things and at least be able to communicate with each other?"

She's right, and while sociability is a pretty low bar, this is the Washington in which everyone complains that bipartisan dinner parties are a thing of the past. The Senate women most definitely dine together. Regularly, in the Capitol, in a room named after the late Strom Thurmond, an infamous pincher of ladies' bottoms.

"I know, the irony," said Olympia Snowe, R-Maine.

But about the issues. There are plenty of veterans who remember the days when women banded together in bipartisan battles on behalf of their sex. Lowey pointed to a fight to get the National Institutes of Health to study women as well as men when it did clinical trials. ("Even the lab rats were male.")

Now, not so much. Barely at all, as a matter of fact. The House women's caucus did hold some hearings on the question of pay parity, but it never took a position on what to do to reduce the wage gap between male and female workers, since the Democratic and Republican co-chairs don't agree on actual bill proposals.

One of the reasons is the dwindling band of moderate, pro-choice Republican women. Diversity is always a good thing – if you've got to have a Tea Party, I'd rather not have an all-male one. But a female lawmaker who opposes giving poor women access to family planning services is not really playing for the team.

In the Senate, the small band of Republican women has included influential moderates like Snowe; Susan Collins, also of Maine; and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who was forced to run as a write-in when a Tea Party candidate swiped the Republican nomination. "Any time I've been successful I've had a woman Republican helping me on the other side of the aisle," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.

The other day Gillibrand proudly noted that every woman in the Senate had supported an amendment to the defense bill she'd sponsored, despite Republican opposition. In the current session, she said, "I think it's the first thing we all voted on."

The amendment would expand treatment for the autistic children of members of the military. Really, folks, you would not think rallying around that one would be all that hard. But once again, we're going to celebrate the clearing of a bar rather than pointing out that it's kind of low. And all but one of the current 17 women voted in favor of ratifying the U.N. treaty on the disabled. Although the Senate being the Senate, the treaty failed. □



The Forgotten Millions



PAUL KRUGMAN

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Let's get one thing straight: America is not facing a fiscal crisis. It is, however, still very much experiencing a job crisis.

It's easy to get confused about the fiscal thing, since everyone's talking about the "fiscal cliff." Indeed, one recent poll suggests that a large plurality of the public believes that the budget deficit will go up if we go off that cliff.

In fact, of course, it's just the opposite: The danger is that the deficit will come down too much, too fast. And the reasons that might happen are purely political; we may be about to slash spending and raise taxes not because markets demand it, but because Republicans have been using blackmail as a bargaining strategy, and the president seems ready to call their bluff.

Moreover, despite years of warnings from the usual suspects about the dangers of deficits and debt, our government can borrow at incredibly low interest rates – interest rates on inflation-protected U.S. bonds are actually negative, so investors are paying our government to make use of their money. And don't tell me that markets may suddenly turn on us. Remember, the U.S. government can't run out of cash (it prints the stuff), so the worst that could happen would be a fall in the dol-

lar, which wouldn't be a terrible thing and might actually help the economy.

Yet there is a whole industry built around the promotion of deficit panic. Lavishly funded corporate groups keep hyping the danger of government debt and the urgency of deficit reduction now now now – except that these same groups are suddenly warning against too much deficit reduction.

No wonder the public is confused.

Meanwhile, there is almost no organized pressure to deal with the terrible thing that is actually happening right now – namely, mass unemployment. Yes, we've made progress over the past year. But long-term unemployment remains at levels not seen since the Great Depression: as of October, 4.9 million Americans had been unemployed for more than six months, and 3.6 million had been out of work for more than a year.

When you see numbers like those, bear in mind that we're looking at millions of human tragedies: at individuals and families whose lives are falling apart because they can't find work, at savings consumed, homes lost and dreams destroyed. And the longer this goes on, the bigger the tragedy.

There are also huge dollars-and-cents costs to our unmet jobs crisis. When willing workers endure forced idleness society as a whole suffers from the waste of their efforts and talents. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that what we are actually producing falls short of what we could and should be producing by around 6 percent of GDP, or \$900 billion a year.

Worse yet, there are good reasons to believe that high unemployment is undermining our future growth as well, as the long-term unemployed come to be

considered unemployable, as investment falters in the face of inadequate sales.

So what can be done? The panic over the fiscal cliff has been revelatory. It shows that even the deficit scolds are closet Keynesians. That is, they believe that right now spending cuts and tax hikes would destroy jobs; it's impossible to make that claim while denying that temporary spending increases and tax cuts would create jobs. Yes, our still-depressed economy needs more fiscal stimulus.

And, to his credit, President Barack Obama did include a modest amount of stimulus in his initial budget offer; the White House, at least, hasn't completely forgotten about the unemployed. Unfortunately, almost nobody expects those stimulus plans to be included in whatever deal is eventually reached.

So why aren't we helping the unemployed? It's not because we can't afford it. Given those ultralow borrowing costs, plus the damage unemployment is doing to our economy and hence to the tax base, you can make a pretty good case that spending more to create jobs now would actually improve our long-run fiscal position.

Nor, I think, is it really ideology. Even Republicans, when opposing cuts in defense spending, immediately start talking about how such cuts would destroy jobs – and I'm sorry, but weaponized Keynesianism, the assertion that government spending creates jobs, but only if it goes to the military, doesn't make sense.

No, in the end it's hard to avoid concluding that it's about class. Influential people in Washington aren't worried about losing their jobs; by and large they don't even know anyone who's unemployed. □

Toys for Tots

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is the season
of sharing and giving.

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